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VOLUME LXIII, NUMBER 19217

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1996 • ADAR 14, 5756 • SHAWAL 15, 1416

NIS 4.20 (EILAT NIS 3.60)

12 die in TA as Hamas terror strikes again

Peres: Israel will hit at terrorists anywhere

RAINE MARCUS

A LONE suicide bomber detonated a 20-kilogram nail bomb in the heart of Tel Aviv adjacent to the packed Dizengoff Center at 4:04 p.m. yesterday, killing 12 people, including four youths, and injuring 109.

By midnight last night, the names of the victims had not yet been released.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Israel would strike at Islamic fundamentalist bombers anywhere to ensure the personal security of its citizens.

"We will go to any corner where this terror has taken root," Peres said in a statement after an emergency cabinet meeting. "What I needed to spell out, I did. What I didn't think I should specify I didn't," he said in reply to question whether the army could now re-enter Palestinian areas.

Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetret said "Unequivocally yes," when asked on television if the IDF now claimed the right to operate in area A areas - the main West Bank towns and much of the Gaza Strip under Arafat's control. "One thing is clear: the IDF has the freedom to operate in the 'A' zone... there are no restrictions," he said.

Top US officials were mean-



Emergency rescue workers and security forces at the scene of yesterday's suicide bomb attack at Dizengoff Center.

(AP)

while called to the White House yesterday to develop a strategy for helping Israel deal with continuing terrorist attacks, Associated Press reported.

In advance of the session, US officials said Israel is likely to be given more information about ter-

ror groups, especially Hamas. It has claimed four suicide bombings in the last nine days.

"My assessment of dealing with terrorist forces is that a key to success is getting good intelligence, so the primary emphasis, I would think," would be helping in

that area, Defense Secretary William Perry said.

Hundreds of people lit fires and stoned cars in a protest outside the Defense Ministry during the emergency cabinet meeting.

The growing crowd, shouting demands for Peres to resign, also

chanted "Death to Arabs" and held up signs reading "Peres promises and gives us a new Middle East; drenched in blood."

Amid calls for revenge and war one protester jumped on top of a van, waving a Palestinian flag. Police tried to remove him as he was

about to set fire to the flag. The protester fell and was carried away in a stretcher.

Channel 1 estimated the size of the crowd gathered at the ministry at between 700 and 800. It said police arrested some 30 protesters. A Labor Party office in south

Tel Aviv was torched last night. There was considerable damage but no casualties.

The bomber, a member of Hamas's Izzadin Kassein terrorist organization, had strapped the bomb to his body, and according to police intended to enter the shopping mall to kill and maim even more people on the eve of Purim.

The terrorist, whose identity has not yet been definitely confirmed, blew himself up as he crossed the main Dizengoff/King George intersection, between Hapoalim and Leumi banks, just as the traffic lights turned red.

Police said that two policemen were guarding the doorway he wished to enter, and therefore he decided to take no chances and detonated the bomb as he crossed the crowded street.

Although Tel Aviv police chief Cmdr. Gabi Last said there could be no consolation considering the numbers of killed and wounded in the attack, hundreds would have been slaughtered if he had succeeded in getting into the massive mall.

"I dread to think what could have happened if a bomb of such a size would have blown up inside the Center," he said. "We had no definite warnings that a terrorist attack would be carried out in Tel Aviv, but as during every holiday we were on full alert."

Yesterday's attack signified a new style of bombing - while police said they expected a bus bomber or a booby trapped car, they did not anticipate a pedestrian.

Police said they had been posted at main shopping malls around the city and at crowded public places following intelligence information that suicide bombers may operate there.

Immediately after the bombing - which damaged some of the Center and surrounding stores, cafes and banks - massive forces of police, border police, soldiers, GSS agents, Mageda David Adom (Continued on Page 9)

Arafat: We have arrested the bombers' recruiter

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE Palestinian Authority raided a teacher's college in Ramallah Sunday night and arrested Mohammed Mustafa Abu Wardah, PA President Yasser Arafat told diplomats in Gaza yesterday.

Abu Wardah was the "recruiter" of the suicide bombers in the two attacks in Jerusalem over the last week, as well as the attack in Gaza.

Twenty others were also reportedly arrested in the raid, which

was coordinated with Israeli authorities.

Abu Wardah is a relative of Majdi Abu Wardah, last week's Jerusalem suicide bomber. Until now, Arafat has not admitted that terror attacks have originated in territories under PA control.

General Security Service chief Ami Ayalon confirmed to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and De-

fense Committee that Arafat had made arrests in the Ramallah area.

Arafat also said that, in the last few days, he has arrested four of the 13 people on Israel's list of most wanted Hamas terrorists.

A source close to Arafat said he is concerned that unless he takes decisive action, there is a risk the entire agreement with Israel will unravel. "He knows that he cannot have it both ways," avoiding (Continued on Page 2)

No time for despair

COMMENT

THOMAS O'DWYER

HOW many times can innocence die? For one child with a white tulle dress and face painted pink for Purim, yesterday was the first time. On a sunny spring afternoon, she sobbed her eyes out and clung to a dazed teenager beside Ya'acov Agam's Fire and Water sculpture on Dizengoff Circle.

The children seemed frozen while everyone else raced wildly in all directions. It was just a few minutes after...

Thank God that child was one still alive to cry. The stink of explosives still hung in the air. Fire and water, fire and tears, blood and terror.

The whimsy of Agam's art, which Tel Avivians loved to love or hate, is itself no more - yesterday was Tel Aviv's second baptism of fire and death in this Oslo process without peace.

It is 16 months since Tel Aviv's innocence - some would say complacency - was blasted away in Dizengoff, on bus No. 5. Tel Aviv may have been the last place in Israel where innocence was deemed a virtue.

It came from a belief that whatever the argument about who owns Jerusalem, the Golan, or Hebron, everyone knows who owns the first Jewish city, the center of modern Jewish culture, the social and economic laboratory of Israel's future.

The assumption was Tel Aviv was immune. Even the fanatics would accept Tel Aviv as an Israeli city, out of the contest. What a dangerous fallacy that has proved to be.

The thunderous roar at 9 a.m. on October 20, 1994 changed all that, utterly, and for good. The immediate stunned silence was one of palpable disbelief, as if the horrified watchers were collectively willing the tangled wreck of the bus to go away, somewhere, anywhere, but out of Dizengoff.

The streets were cleaned, the glass repaired, the bus stop moved, the crowds returned. But normality was gone.

Every day, we regulars stand at the bus stop opposite the Dizengoff Tivoli Cafe and the low black pedestal commemorating the 22 who died on bus No. 5. We catch No. 5, around 4 p.m. The pillar of victims' names nestles against a tree, whose shattered branches missed last spring but are flourishing now.

Every day, the memorial reminded us all that Dizengoff was a target and remains a target. We hang

theories, like rabbits' feet, around our necks. "The bombers always attack in the morning," one tells a partner worried about the regular afternoon bus ride. Bang goes another rabbit's foot.

Daily Dizengoff is a mildly pleasant routine, quickly taken for granted - lots of bookshops, food, trees, musicians, cafes. Lots of youngsters heading to or from the Center or Haad Rock Cafe.

Dizengoff Center was made for idle innocent pleasures, daily routine, somewhere to escape that heavy stuff of politics and peace processes. Not a place to go and yell slogans.

But when the shadow of the valley of death passes over, Dizengoff is one of the most sinister of places. It is a darkness that sucks in the whole land of Israel, for if the enemy can put this oh so normal place out of bounds, where is our home any more?

Inside the Center after the bomb, it was astounding how far the damage had spread - glass everywhere, dislocated roofs, wrecked cafes, panicky security guards creating confusion by screaming at everyone in sight to go here, go there, come back from there, and being screamed at to go to hell. One guard doggedly continued to check handbags at a wrecked entrance.

They say the odds are shortening when dangers come off the news bulletins to affect someone you know or some place nearby, and then it's time to take care, whether it's AIDS, or car crashes, or terrorism.

Journalists live in news bulletins, so the rules must be different - their innocence dies young.

But the first time I drove into a bombing, in 1970, skidding a car to a halt as the center of the city of Newry in Northern Ireland disintegrated before my eyes, I was only a tourist.

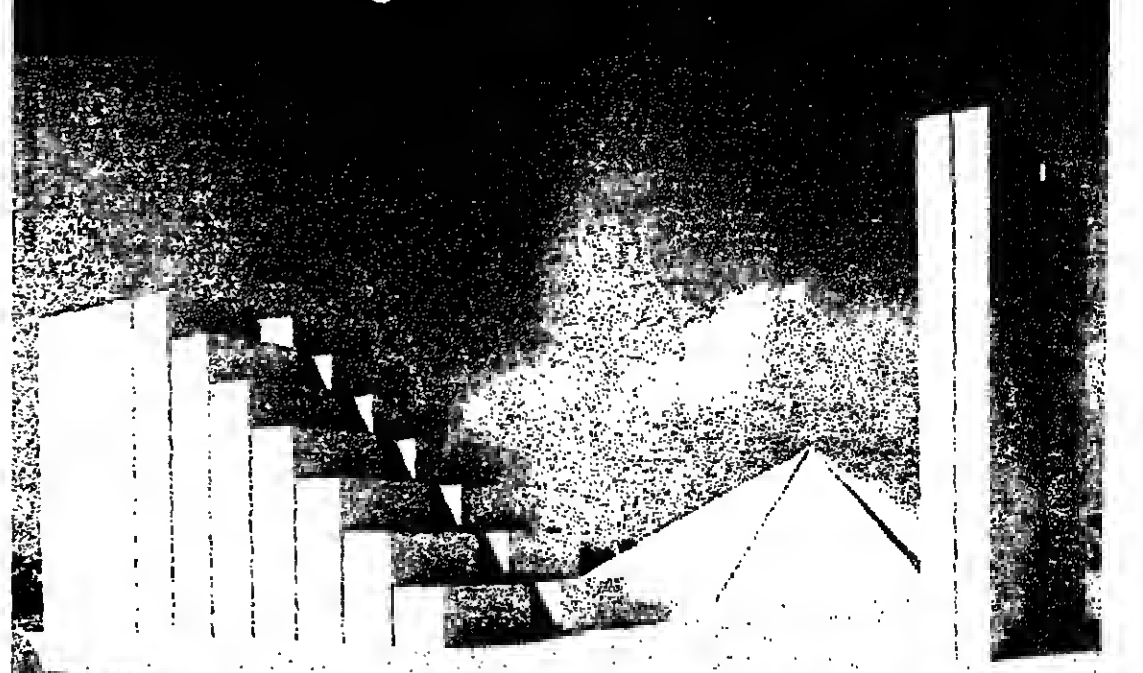
The first was the same as all the rest - the acrid air, the eerie silence, the rising screams and shouts. The smell of death comes faster than the ambulance.

Is there anything to be said that hasn't been?

Probably not. As long as there is one group out there that thinks Israel has no right to exist, this is what we have, and it is no time to surrender to despair.

It is no time to give up our bus, or our Dizengoff, or our Tel Aviv. For if we do, we may as well forget our Jerusalem and our Israel.

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IDF soldier wounded on northern border

DAVID RUDGE

AT least one IDF soldier was reported seriously wounded in clashes in south Lebanon last night, after an apparent attempt by terrorists to infiltrate into Israel.

The clashes occurred after gunmen opened fire from the Lebanese side of the border at troops on routine patrol near from Kibbutz Maanara in Upper Galilee.

The reports said the three Lebanese civilians had been wounded when an illumination shell crashed on their home in a village inside the security zone.

If correct, the reported infiltration would be the first in several years.

By late last night, no organization had claimed responsibility for the attack although it was believed to have been carried out by a Palestinian rejectionist group operating in coordination with Hizbullah.

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No decision on full-scale strike into PA territory

Peres: We must remain focused

SEVERAL unpublished security measures were decided upon at an emergency cabinet session last night, but the cabinet did not decide to launch a full-scale strike inside Palestinian territories.

An official inside the Prime Minister's Office said last night the thrust of the decision was to warn the Palestinian Authority that if they did not strike against Hamas, Israel would do so.

The cabinet agreed on the establishment of an inter-agency emergency task force, to be coordinated by General Security Service chief Ami Ayalon, which would be empowered to designate those terror targets not being handled by Palestinian Authority. Also represented on the panel will be the IDF and the police.

DAVID MAKOVSKY

The establishment of such a body has been pushed for 10 days by Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish.

It was clear from the meeting that a full-scale attack is not in the cards. "We don't want the PLO to return to terror, Israel to return to the intifada, and the suicides to continue," Peres said. "We need to remain focused."

Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet said the cabinet decided to hit targets once it is clear they are not being handled by the PA. Another minister said the IDF would have a "free hand," apparently to operate inside PA territory, but would avoid conflict with the

PA.

Before entering the meeting, both Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer and Health Minister Ephraim Sneh called for retaliatory strikes.

Peres told reporters that Israel would "go into every corner," wherever the suicide bombers may be, but would not elaborate whether this would include areas under full PA control.

He said the homes of relatives of suicide bombers would be demolished today, and said there had already been some administrative detention.

After the late night press conference at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv, Peres went to see President Ezer Weizman to brief him on the cabinet decisions.



Tel Aviv residents demonstrate, some holding a sign saying: "This isn't peace, it's terror," near the site of yesterday's Dizengoff Center bombing. (Dan Oszdri/Israel Sun)

'Military action against Hamas would have high price'

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

IF Israel decides to take military action against Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists in Palestinian-ruled areas, it would likely be forced to pay a high price, as the Palestinian Authority's forces would be drawn into the clash, anti-terrorism expert Yigal Carmon said yesterday.

"You cannot fight Hamas without fighting the Palestinian Authority. It is the wall that keeps us from acting against the Hamas. It is a formula for a total disaster, and all hell is likely to break loose. If we do their job, then we will be facing Palestinian policemen, and it is inevitable they won't stand by," said Carmon, a former adviser to the prime minister on combating terrorism.

He said Yasser Arafat would oppose Israeli actions in his territory because it would compromise his authority and "he would be left with nothing."

Leaders from both the Left and

Right have called for an open war against Islamic militants. Prime Minister Shimon Peres said, again, that Israel has a variety of measures and will not hesitate to use them. But he refused to say what means the government is going to use to fight terror.

It was inevitable that Israel's intelligence network suffered from the withdrawal from territories. And it is also inevitable that any attempt to return, even in limited military actions, will bring IDF troops face to face with the Palestinian police, Carmon said.

Former chief of general staff Dan Shomron said it was a mistake to believe that a strong Palestinian Authority force would help Israel defeat Islamic terror.

"If we want to reasonably reduce the possibility of suicide bombers, there is no choice but to return the intelligence to the ter-

ritories we abandoned and, if necessary, carry out pinpoint actions with our forces," he said.

Finding specific targets is also a difficult problem. "There is no bang, bang, finished with the problem of terrorism," said former General Security Service head Karmi Gillon. "We are dealing with wanted people who have no address."

Anat Kurz, a researcher at the Jaffee Center, said limited military action is sometimes necessary to push forward a peace process. But she said targeting the Hamas leadership would merely legitimize more terrorist attacks.

"Hamas is a popular movement, an atmosphere," she said. "History has shown us that the best solution to fighting terrorism is a peace process. The problem now is to convince the public at large that the peace process is not contradictory to ending terrorism."

Peres won't give up Defense portfolio

SARAH HONIG

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres is not giving up the Defense portfolio or giving any consideration to proposals that an emergency security cabinet be set up to combat terrorism, Defense Ministry Spokesman Avner Benayahu said.

A proposal for an emergency cabinet was made by the Likud's Ariel Sharon. It came without the consent of the Likud leadership and generated angry reactions toward Sharon inside the party.

While the cabinet was still in session, and as demonstrations raged outside the Defense Ministry, Peres sent Benayahu to announce that he was not dealing with political issues, or giving consideration to a portfolio reshuffle or emergency cabinet.

Peres was reported livid because of media speculation about his turning Defense over to Foreign Minister Ehud Barak, who would in turn hand his portfolio to Interior Minister Haim Ramon. Reports spoke of a meeting, after the Dizengoff blast, of Barak, Ramon, and Minister Yossi Beilin, who recommended

the reshuffle to Peres as a means of increasing the public's confidence in the government.

Peres is reported incensed by the suggestion that he cannot cope with the country's security needs. A reshuffle would be an admission of failure, it is said around him, and Peres will not countenance that. For the same reason, he cannot accept the emergency cabinet suggestion.

Sharon proposed that "for a limited period, such as a year, an emergency cabinet be set up for the single purpose of combatting terrorism and defending the citizens of Israel. The entire nation would be united in this fight."

He said the cabinet would be headed by Peres, but would include opposition military and security experts, such as himself. Highly-placed Likud sources said they were surprised by Sharon's proposal, which had not been discussed with any senior Likud figure, much less received anyone's blessing. The sources termed Sharon's proposal "irresponsible."

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of our dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

BESSIE ADA KAUFMANN

née Nochomowitz
formerly of Cape Town, South Africa

The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, March 5, 1996 (Adar 14, 5756), at 4 p.m. at Moshav Timorim

Hazel and Herbert Gaito and family
Cora Newman and family

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née Sherman

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Grandson: Rom and Hila Altstock, Israel
Granddaughter: Dorset and Tzafir Katz, Israel
Grandson: Jeff and Tammie Panster, U.S.A.
Granddaughter: Talya and Rick Strolck, Israel
Grandson: Greg and Jamie Panster, U.S.A.
Great-grandchildren: Liat, Jordan, Elijah, Roy, Mitchel, Bethany, Arianna, Jordan

Netanyahu: We must take the initiative

LIAT COLLINS

LIKUD leader Binyamin Netanyahu held a short press conference in Jerusalem last night in which the principal themes were the need to return the initiative and freedom of operation to the Israeli security forces and the need to demonstrate national unity while maintaining restraint on the streets.

"The central problem of the terrorism we see today is that we rely on Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian Authority to be our subcontractors in fighting terrorism. It is clear that that concept has failed, and we see terrorism exploding in our streets - literally. The only thing we can do is not to continue on a failed course. It's bound to lead to more terrorism," Netanyahu said.

"What we should do is take the initiative, as any responsible government does. Strike at the terrorists wherever they are without any limitations. And obviously I leave the precise means to our security forces. Believe me, they know what to do. If the terrorists feel they do not have to pay a price, the terror will continue. If we don't hit out at it and its enablers, it will continue."

"The key is to ensure the terrorists do not enjoy a place of sanctuary. The minute they have such a sanctuary, you are telling them: 'You are immune and have nothing to worry about.' As long as the leaders can send their terrorists to do their work while being safe themselves, the terror will continue."

Arafat pledges to fight terror with Israel

JON IMMANUEL

PALESTINIAN Authority President Yasser Arafat said yesterday he was ready with Israel "to fight and uproot this terror" and "all the local and external forces" who stand behind it.

Speaking to reporters in Gaza, Arafat spoke of a two-stage treatment of the problem, "first a quick and urgent stage in the framework of Israeli-Palestinian relations and secondly a comprehensive treatment because this terrorism has deep roots and its leadership moves freely in the region and the world."

About 350 Islamic movement supporters have been arrested during the past week but it is unclear how many of them are connected to the armed wing.

Former General Security Services director Karmi Gillon cited Ramallah as a source of the attacks, but did not think it necessary for Israel to go into Ramallah, which is in area A

under sole Palestinian Authority control.

Gillon said on ITV that the Palestinian police had "foiled terror attacks when they knew about them," but had not taken preemptive action to arrest known Izzadin Kassam commanders like Mohammed Dief whose location they did know, even if they don't know where he is now. "You have to deal with the head and not the tail," he said.

If words are an indication, Arafat appears to have understood that terrorism against Israel directly threatens the Palestinian Authority.

Arafat's spokesman, Marwan Kanafani, said yesterday's bombing was "a declaration of war, and we should treat it as such."

In Gaza's Yarmuk Stadium yesterday before the Tel Aviv attack some 10,000 joined in

an unprecedented rally against Islamic terrorism in support of the peace process.

Although several of the latest statements by Izzadin Kassam, and its spinoffs "the disciples of Yihye Ayyash" and "the units of Yihye Ayyash" have issued contradictory statements, they appear to be all connected and only one group is suspected of perpetrating all the recent attacks.

Despite a promise of a three-month ceasefire on Sunday, an anonymous caller to Israel Radio said yesterday's Dizengoff Center attack was a response to Prime Minister Shimon Peres response to their cease-fire "warning us there will be war on Hamas."

The caller warned "there will be painful attacks in the very near future." The caller alleged that yesterday's attack was perpetrated by "our brothers, the Islamic Jihad."

UN, Boutros-Ghali condemn attack

MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK

SAYING his heart was "full of sadness," for the third time in nine days UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali sent his condolences to the Israeli government as he denounced yesterday's terror attack in Tel Aviv.

"I strongly condemn this latest heinous act of cowardice," Boutros-Ghali said in a statement.

"The civilized world will not, must not, tolerate these acts of terrorism, which have no goal except the undermining of the Middle East process," he said. "The senseless carnage must end. I appeal to all those who advocate violence to come to their senses."

In a statement reaffirming support for the peace process, the members of the Security Council also condemned the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv attacks. They called for increased cooperation to curb

violence and stem terror.

Israeli ambassador Gad Ya'acobi again called on the UN to take measures against individuals and organizations that "give financial and political support to Islamic terror groups."

Ya'acobi said some financial aid came from supporters in the US and Europe, but he identified Iran as a main backer of both Hamas and Hizbullah in Lebanon. Teheran is "supplying training facilities, arms and political support for those groups," he said.

United Nations Special Coordinator Terje Rod-Larsen condemned the fourth terrorist bomb attack in nine days as "another savage attack on innocent civilians in Israel." He extended his condolences to the people and government of Israel.

Hamas-affiliated centers in Jerusalem to be shut

BILL HUTMAN

HAMAS-affiliated organizations operating in eastern Jerusalem will be closed down by administrative order, the spokesman for the Internal Security Ministry announced last night.

The decision was taken at the meeting between Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal, and heads of the security forces held to plan responses to the recent wave of Hamas terror attacks, the spokesman said.

Ministry sources said that at least three Palestinian institutions affiliated with Hamas faced closure.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert on Sunday presented Peres with a

list of Hamas-affiliated organizations in Jerusalem, including the Central Islamic Welfare Organization, the Islamic Science and Technology Association, and the Islamic religion faculty of Al-Kuds University.

These welfare and education institutions, and others, are allegedly used by Hamas to increase Palestinian public support for the organization.

Meanwhile, the police spokesman announced that an additional 500 soldiers were being transferred temporarily to police service, in addition to the 1,000 already working with police in Jerusalem, in response to the recent wave of terror attacks.

ARAFAT

(Continued from Page 1) conflict with Hamas while retaining the peace agreement, the source said.

He said Arafat has promised to press religious leaders in Gaza to issue a fatwa (edict) against terrorism, saying it runs contrary to Islam, and that several mosque preachers will squarely condemn terrorist attacks in their Friday sermons.

The PA is also pursuing Palestinian money changers, who Arafat believes are laundering funds for Hamas.

Arafat himself will make further public statements, in Arabic, opposing terrorism, as he did in an address to the public on Palestinian television Sunday night and at a peace rally yesterday.

In his speech, Arafat said terror attacks are "sinful" and "forbidden by God, by Islamic law,

and by all norms and conventions."

The PA, he added, "will strike with a powerful hand at the plotters who are trying by all means to undermine our achievements and national independence and the future of our children, who want to live without occupation and without the cycle of violence, extremism, and terrorism. It has decided to face the flagrant foreign plot, which is directed by the enemies of the Palestinian people."

Arafat is also said to be upset that Israel is not using its good ties with Jordan to clamp down on two Hamas leaders he believes are providing instructions and funding to the terrorists, Ibrahim Ghoshe and Mohammed Nozzal, both based in Amman.

Jon Immanuel contributed to this report.

Gov't cuts talks with Syria

HILLEL KUTLER

WASHINGTON

THE government last night cut off negotiations with Syria, saying it could not conduct peace talks amid terrorism at home.

Within three hours of the Dizengoff bombing, the Israeli delegation notified the American peace process team of the decision and "prepared to return home last night. The talks were to have resumed yesterday in Maryland after a weekend break."

On a visit to Taylor, Michigan, US President Bill Clinton told reporters he is "convinced" that Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat "will now answer the call ... to do more" to fight Hamas, and said the US must improve the capacities of the PA and of others to fight terrorism.

"I believe that Mr. Arafat will have to do more," Clinton said. "I believe everyone else will have to do more. He will have to do

everything he can, up to the limits of whatever capacities they have." Clinton also indicated he would support Israeli retaliation for the latest killings.

Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, a member of the negotiating team, said that the decision to postpone the talks is not linked to Damascus's lack of condemnation of the bombings, but rather because "this is not a fruitful time" for continuing the talks.

"The decision to recall the delegation to Israel is not related to statements made or not made, or actions taken or not taken, by Syria," Rabinovich said.

New York Congresswoman Nita Lowey said the peace process "must be suspended indefinitely until Yasser Arafat demonstrates he can isolate and eliminate Hamas."

Terrorist stabs 2 in Hebron

HERB KEINON

TWO yeshiva students were stabbed in central Hebron yesterday by an assailant who was shot and arrested by the IDF.

Gideon Margalit, an administrator at the Shavei Hebron yeshiva, said the two - Eyal Sa'adi, 25, of Kamei Shomron, and Yanai Dahan, 35, of Ra'anana - were standing in Gross Square when the assailant ran out from the nearby market and stabbed them. Soldiers saw the attack, and fired at the terrorist, who was hit but continued to flee.

The two were taken to Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem, suffering from wounds to the back and the head, which were described as light to moderate.

The IDF spokesman said the terrorist was arrested in a hospital in Hebron.

Noam Amon, the head of the Hebron settlement, said the attack only strengthens the argument against IDF redeployment from the city. "If the IDF had been redeployed, the terrorist would have run another two meters and been in the autonomous region," he said.

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The public is invited to the Virginia Snitow Lecture Series on the subject of:
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مكتبة الأهل

מקראות לתשע



Medics and rescue workers try to resuscitate a woman following the suicide bomb attack at Dizengoff Center in Tel Aviv yesterday.

A stake in the heart of TA

'We all just started to cry and run away'

ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

TEARS streaked the festive makeup on the face of 16-year-old Ortal Hershkovitz as she rushed away from Dizengoff Center following the murderous explosion yesterday afternoon. The Ramat Aviv teenager had been wandering the vast shopping mall dressed in her Purim costume as a Hawaiian hula dancer with a necklace of flowers around her neck. "All of a sudden, there was a huge explosion and glass started falling towards us," she sobbed, as her friends Effrat Cohen and Hagit Sbaybach tried to comfort her. "We all just started to cry and run away. We didn't want to look at the bodies. We came shopping with two other friends - we don't know where they are right now."

Like many other Tel Aviv teenagers, the girls had been compensating themselves for the cancellations of their school's Purim celebrations with shopping and a meal at McDonald's, when their outing turned into a bloody and horrible experience. Younger children, many dressed in their costumes, had been shopping with their parents and were among the witnesses and victims of the explosion. The city of Tel Aviv virtually froze when the explosion happened - the noise was discernible kilometers away from the site. On nearby Ibn Gvirol Street, women ran out of the hairdressers in curlers to find the closest television or radio.

This was not the explosion of a commuter bus leaving a certain neighborhood at a certain time. In the late afternoon, nearly any Tel Aviv resident might have a reason to visit Dizengoff Center.

Public telephones were immediately crowded with people wanting to locate their loved ones or call to reassure their families that they were all right. Others rushed home from work to assure them in person - frustrated by the overloaded telephone lines. The streets of downtown Tel Aviv were uncharacteristically barren as early evening fell. Buses were virtually empty as well.

Far away from the sight of the bombing, there were plenty of tearful eyes on the streets. One young girl ran down the street after bearing the news crying, "I can't take it anymore!" The emotional reaction on the streets of Tel Aviv did not have the element of amazement of a year and a half ago when Bus No. 5 exploded on Dizengoff, an attack marked by a black memorial marker located just a few meters away from the site of yesterday's bombing.

Back then, the dominant emotion was disbelief - a sense that such a major terrorist incident can't happen in Tel Aviv, not on Dizengoff. But the city has since lost its innocence.

Along Dizengoff Street itself, stores began shutting down minutes after the event. The owner of "Caligula Shoes" muttered as he closed up, "Who is going to want to go shoe shopping today?"

Next door at a bridal store, a young bride already coiffed and made up for her wedding tried desperately to find her fiance standing on

the sidewalk with her cellular phone. Half a block away, police stopped a group of Arab workers and asked them to show their papers. A small crowd formed around the scene. As the police left, the Arabs looked fearfully at the bystanders, afraid to move. But the crowd backed away.

The sights and sounds at Dizengoff Center itself had an awful familiarity: the bodies strewn on the street covered with blankets, the screams of the ambulance sirens, the haredi volunteers climbing ladders to fetch body parts.

One of those volunteers was a member of the haredi musical group "Off Simchas," who only a few nights ago had been singing in the Eurovision song competition.

The automatic teller machines at the Bank Hapoalim and Bank Leumi that flank Dizengoff Center on the corner of Dizengoff and King George Streets were completely destroyed.

One of the witnesses to the blast was one of the beggars who sits regularly on the corner asking for change.

"I sit there all the time," said the shaggy-haired man. "Another one of the regulars there is a man who plays music. After the bomb, I saw him lying in pieces on the ground."

Broken glass was everywhere. Among the smashed signs in and around the shopping mall, three of the hearts on the Dizengoff Center sign for the theater "Lev Tel Aviv" were shattered. And that was more symbolic than anything.

'I've been looking for my son all afternoon'

MICHAL YUDELMAN

A STREAM of ambulances, sirens shrieking, delivered 74 of the 118 wounded in the bombing to Ichilov Hospital.

Two of them were clinically dead on arrival and all efforts to resuscitate them failed, while a third was fighting for his life, hospital director Dr. Gabi Barabash reported. Ten others were severely wounded and six were taken into surgery shortly after arrival.

By yesterday evening, 65 were still hospitalized, while nine of the lightly wounded had been released.

Four of the wounded were children, one in critical condition, and some of the others badly hurt, Barabash said. He refused to give further details because not all the families had been notified.

Barabash said most of the wounded were suffering from burns, impact injuries, and injuries to limbs.

According to some reports, several patients were wounded in a way which indicated that the bomb incorporated nails, so that the damage would be greater.

Ichilov's reception area turned

into a large information center, providing data on the condition and whereabouts of the wounded in all six hospitals to which victims had been taken.

By evening, the information center filled with worried people, some in tears, searching for relatives and friends. Others sat patiently, waiting for information. All of them dreaded the worst - having to go to the Forensic Institute at Abu Kabir to identify a body.

"We're looking for three girls. There were four, one is hospitalized here and the others... we just don't know," one agitated mother said.

"Itai Gojansky, if you can hear mother..." a woman in tears said. "I was in Dizengoff, I heard the explosion. We live right there. My son had gone down to the bank to get money and arrange something. I've been looking for him all afternoon. There is no answer from our flat. They don't have any information about him here."

"I was in Dizengoff Center, where I had a meeting with my daughter for Purim. This is the holiday gift we got. I went into shock, but otherwise wasn't hurt. I'll be discharged tomorrow," another woman said, adding that her daughter was unhurt.

Health Minister Ephraim Sneh, who arrived after the bombing, said the terrorists deliberately chose "the cruelest place to hit us, on Purim, in a place they knew would be filled with children in costume and their mothers, in the very center of Tel Aviv."

Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, who also visited, noted that the hospital was only a short distance away from the site where Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated. "I was here that night as well. What this tells me is that there is a limit to our endurance and suffering. The public now expects firm and unequivocal action against the murderers. As a former MK and cabinet minister, and as mayor, I say we can't take this murder and these terrorist attacks anymore. Enough already. We must put an end to it."

Tourists try to come to grips with bombings

ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

STUNNED tourists were among the onlookers after yesterday's bomb explosion, staring in disbelief as they struggled to absorb the fact that they had witnessed four terrorist incidents during their trip.

"These bombs are following us," said Simooe Kauffman, a member of an 1100-person mission from UJA Canada. "We were in Jerusalem for the first two, and now, at the end of our trip to Israel, we came to Tel Aviv and this happens."

Kauffman's husband, Alan, had been in the mall an hour before the explosion. He went back to his hotel to fetch his wife. On the spur of the moment they decided to walk on the beach before returning to Dizengoff. Otherwise, they might have been in the mall or in

front of it at the time of the explosion.

"We've travelled to Israel a lot," Kauffman said, "and I remember when a few years ago we were so happy seeing the Soviet Jews come to Israel. After seeing this, I'm not so happy for them anymore. And I have to say, for the first time during a visit to Israel - I can't wait to get home."

Marilyn and David Cole, visitors from Vancouver, had been on their way to Dizengoff Center to shop for souvenirs when they heard the explosion. They said that they had tried not to be nervous even after the events in Jerusalem, but this was too much

for them. "When we took the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem bus, I was nervous, but I didn't think there was any danger in a shopping mall," said Marilyn.

"I guess in this country, you never know, do you? I don't understand what's wrong with these people."

She said that they had received numerous worried calls from their children after each incident. "I told them, listen, there are bus bombs in London, they blow up buildings in Oklahoma."

"Yes, but it doesn't happen there every day," her husband pointed out.

"I guess," his wife conceded. "I feel sorry for the people who have to face this every day."

Crowds call for revenge

ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

TEMPERS flared among the onlookers that gathered around Dizengoff Center after yesterday's bombing, and Prime Minister Shimon Peres was met with jeers and boos when he visited the site.

In the hours after the explosion, individuals shouted, "They did their work in Jerusalem, now they've come here!" "We have to send our tanks into Gaza," they said, adding, "This closure of the territories is nothing but a joke."

Others simply shook their heads and muttered, "This is war."

The individuals gathered into groups, chanting "Revenge, revenge," "Death to the Arabs," "Peres go home," and even "Peres should be bombed. Let him explode!"

The outbursts came despite pleas for restraint by Mayor Ronni Milo.

Several times the crowds tried to get through the police barricades that kept them away from the blast site, and dozens of policemen and border policemen were needed to restrain them. One

young man, who tried to jump at a policeman, was restrained by a group of his friends. "Cut it out, you'll only get yourself arrested," they told him.

In the heated atmosphere, rumors flew regarding the manner of the attack, the identity of the bomber, and even of additional terrorist attacks, which proved false.

Ringling the noisy demonstrations were more subdued groups of onlookers, who also had politics on their minds.

"This is it for me," said Tel Aviv resident Roni Leibovich.

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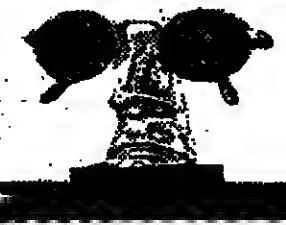
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Ayalon: Hundreds of Palestinians are waiting in line to die as martyrs

THERE are hundreds of Palestinian youths "waiting in line" to commit suicide attacks for Hamas, General Security Service head (Ami Ayalon told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

Addressing the committee before the Dizengoff attack, he warned that places other than Jerusalem are also potential targets.

Both the suicide bombers involved in last week's attacks in Jerusalem and Ashkelon studied in the mosque in the El-Fawar refugee camp just south of Hebron.

In this camp alone, which has 6,000 residents, Israel located between 30 and 40 youths aged 15 to 20 who had declared their willingness to commit a suicide attack, Ayalon told the MKs, according to an official briefing.

These numbers have not been seen in the past, he said. Most of the El-Fawar youths were arrested.

According to Ayalon, a terror network seems to be forming around two main foci, the study of Islam in mosques and in seminaries. Mohammed Abu Warda, the cousin of one of last week's attackers, studied at the Teachers Seminary in Ramallah, from where he encouraged the youths

LIAT COLLINS

to join Hamas's operative wing. Both the terrorists involved in last week's attacks - Majda Abu Warda and Ibrahim Abu Saranah - left testaments in their homes stating they intended to die as *shahidim* (martyrs).

Ayalon said the Hamas terror group caught trying to carry out an attack in Gush Katif on Friday night was also prepared to die.

He outlined a situation in which the operatives in the mosques prepare the bombers, while those in the seminaries come up with the ideas and the means of carrying them out.

The idea for building up a Hamas network comes from Gaza and reaches the mosques and seminaries, where students begin recruiting youths prepared to carry out suicide attacks, he explained. The preferred targets are within the Green Line and not the autonomous areas.

"In our opinion, the Hamas political leadership was unaware of the details of the attacks, while the Palestinian Authority did not know of the attacks at either the planning or operative stages," Ayalon said.

He said the religious wing of Hamas is deeply entrenched among the Palestinian population

of Judea, Samaria and Gaza through its charities and educational institutions.

Ayalon repeated the opinion that the latest attacks were not carried out to commemorate any particular event.

"Hamas carries out attacks to promote its own policy whenever it can and not in revenge for any political action of ours," he said. "If it has the opportunity, it will carry out an attack. As long as the preaching [of martyrdom] continues, an operative network could be created."

Answering a question by MK Ariel Sharon (Likud), Ayalon said the Palestinian Authority had detained large numbers of Hamas activists but had not arrested the leaders of the military wing.

He said some 160 activists had been detained in Gaza and 50 in Judea and Samaria. "Only in the coming days will we be able to see if [the Palestinian Authority] makes good its promise to take action," he said.

Ayalon also noted that the Palestinian Authority would face a serious problem, after outlawing Hamas, in trying to determine the exact nature of the group.

"Hamas is an idea, not an organization," he said. "And that is a difficult dilemma with which he [Arafat] will have to cope."

Thousands pray at Wall to avert terror

HERB KEINON

AN estimated 3,000 people were reciting psalms and special penitential prayers at the Western Wall yesterday, as a response to the terror attack in Jerusalem, at the same time that another terrorist attacked in Tel Aviv.

"Our Father, our King, abolish all evil decrees against us," Rabbi Moti Elon chanted in a throaty voice, not knowing that more evil had already been perpetrated in Tel Aviv. The crowd followed his chant.

News of the attack made its way to the crowd from people in the Jewish Quarter, who heard it on the radio. The gathering was called by the chief rabbis.

Rafi Barnett, of Ramot, said he came to the Wall as he does every year on the Fast of Esther, but that this year the fast and the special prayers accompanying it had added significance.

There are two ways of dealing with evil, Barnett said. "There is physically trying to uproot it, which is the job of the politicians, and there is trying to uproot it on a spiritual plane, through prayer. That is our only other weapon. You can shout in the street, or you can pray. Prayer is an outlet."

David Bernstein came with 150 students from the women's yeshiva, Midreshet Lindenbaum, which he directs. He said he brought the women because "it is the proper way of identifying with the nation in its anguish."

Phone lines disrupted by flood of calls

JUDY SIEGEL

SERIOUS disruptions hit the telephone infrastructure soon after news of the Dizengoff Center blast became known, as callers throughout the country and abroad called their loved ones to try to locate them.

It was impossible to reach many phone numbers in Tel Aviv and even in Jerusalem in the late afternoon and evening. "Everyone knows somebody in Tel Aviv," said a Bezeq spokeswoman. "We appealed to the public not to make any unnecessary calls, but apparently nobody listened," she said.

No telephone exchanges "collapsed" but the overload did make it very difficult to reach other lines around the country, she said.



Ya'acov Shingeloff (right) breaks down in tears at the funeral of his wife, Anna, who was killed in Sunday's Jerusalem bus bombing. (Ariel Jeruzolimski)

Jerusalem bombing victims buried

JON IMMANUEL and Itim

FUNERALS for several of the victims of Sunday's Jerusalem bus bombing were held yesterday.

Anna Shingeloff, 36, was buried in Jerusalem's Har

Hamenuhot Cemetery. Gavriel Barel, a close family friend, described her initial difficulties in adapting to life here after immigrating about five years ago, and how she had succeeded in eventually raising a family here. She is survived by her husband, Ya'acov, and her two daughters, 2 and 10 months.

George Yonan, 38, was buried in the Old City, where he lived. He is survived by two brothers and three sisters.

Maya Birkan, 59, was also buried at Har Hamenuhot. An economist, she immigrated from the Soviet Union with her husband Roman and their two children four years ago, and worked taking care of an elderly woman, and was on her way to the woman's home when she was killed.

Former Prisoner of Zion Yosef Begun, a relative, eulogized her. He said that while he was being persecuted by the Soviet regime, her family had helped him.

Hundreds of mourners accompanied the coffin of Sarina

Angel, a 47-year-old grandmother, through Bethlehem to the Syrian Orthodox cemetery. During the funeral, the radio broadcast the first reports of another suicide bombing in Tel Aviv.

Moslems as well as Christians accompanied the coffin, after crowding into the Syrian Orthodox church for the funeral service where her body lay in an open casket framed with flowers. The priest denounced the violence which took her life. She is survived by two daughters and three grandchildren.

Ethiopian tourist Stephans Gidol, 23, was buried in a ceremony in Jerusalem attended by many members of the local Ethiopian Christian community and some Ethiopian Jewish immigrants.

Arrangements were being made to fly the bodies of Valerika Craciun, 44, a tourist, and construction workers Dominic Lunca, 29; Daniel Patenka, 33; Marian Grefan, 40; Mirze Gifa, 39; and Dimitru Kokarascu, 43, back to Romania.

Families of Romanian victims to receive lifetime pensions from NII

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE six Romanians killed in Sunday's Jerusalem bus bombing will be flown home today for burial.

The Romanian Embassy, aided by the Foreign Ministry, made arrangements for the six, all of whom were working here, to be buried in their home towns.

Their families will receive the same compensation paid to Israeli victims of terrorism and will be paid a lifetime pension, Ronit Gedulter, spokeswoman for the National Insurance Institute, said yesterday.

The body of Valerika Craciun, 44, will be accompanied back by her husband, Vasile, who worked here in the building trade.

"They supported three families with the money they earned here," said Angela Jurovski, a former librarian who knew the family

from their home town of Sucova. "She worked here for three years, cleaning houses. In Sucova, Valerika worked in an electronics store."

According to Jurovski, Craciun did not arrive at her job on time. When the woman whose house she cleaned learned that she had left for work on the No. 18 bus, she took Vasile to the Abu Kabir Forensics Institute where he identified the body.

The other five Romanians, all construction workers, were from Bucharest.

Foreign Minister Ehud Barak sent a letter of condolence to his Romanian counterpart, Teodor Melescanu, and to the Ethiopian Foreign Minister Mesfin Siyoum. An Ethiopian tourist was also killed in the attack.

Several in Labor want to delay primary

MICHAL YUDELMAN

A NUMBER of Labor's candidates yesterday launched an initiative to delay the primaries and the Knesset elections due to the situation caused by the terrorist attacks.

The initiative, spearheaded by Pinni Shomer, running in the central region; Dov Oren, contending in the Sharon region; and Haya Cohen, on the national list, is supported by several other candidates.

The idea was also reportedly raised at yesterday's special cabinet session.

Curfew imposed on Fawar camp; bombers' homes sealed

JON IMMANUEL

AN open-ended curfew was imposed on Fawar refugee camp, the home of the two suicide bombers who perpetrated last week's attacks in Jerusalem and Ashkelon, Sunday night and arrested several residents, the IDF said yesterday. Several homes were also searched.

It was the first clear response to the recent wave of terrorist bombings. Prime Minister Shimon Peres ordered a curfew on the camp, among other measures Sunday.

Peres said Israel cannot accept scenes of celebration in Palestinian towns after each terror attack.

During a wake for the two bombers last week, the families hung a sign saying, "We are accepting congratulations, not condolences," and served sweet coffee, instead of the bitter coffee traditionally served at funerals.

The families of the two bombers were told to vacate their homes yesterday, and they were sealed and may later be demolished, the IDF said.

The parents of Ibrahim Saranah, the Ashkelon bomber, took out furniture, bathroom fittings and even doors and windows of their large white stucco house before it was sealed. They then moved into a small hut next door.

The alleys of the camp, south of Hebron, with its 5,000 residents, were empty and soldiers stood guard on rooftops. People stared out of upper floor windows and were told to get indoors when they came out onto balconies.

The men of the camp were all interrogated outside during the night, and were made to sit in a courtyard under IDF guard until morning. About 30 were arrested and taken for further investigation, an IDF spokesman said during a press briefing at the camp.

On the walls of the camp were many slogans praising Yihye Ayyash, the master bomber in whose name Saranah and Majdi Abu Wardah, the Jerusalem bus bomber, acted.

On one wall a fresh slogan by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine praised the two bombers as "heroes."

Sunday's wounded show slight improvement

JUDY SIEGEL

THE seven people wounded in Sunday's bus bombing were, slightly improved yesterday, but five remained in serious condition, and two were listed as critical. However, Amit Mach, 25, of Jerusalem, who had been severely wounded in last week's bus blast, amazed Shaare Zedek doctors with a very rapid recovery, and was discharged yesterday.

Dr. Moshe Hersch, head of the hospital's intensive-care unit, said Mach had suffered blast-lung injury, in which the force of the explosion causes damage to the lung from inside and out. Still at Shaare Zedek are Avraham Cohen, 42, who suffered lung damage in this Sunday's bomb explosion. He was in serious but stable condition yesterday. Eight patients are still at Shaare Zedek for treatment of injuries from last week's attack, four of them in intensive care.

At Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem, the other six wounded are being treated. These include two in critical condition and the rest in serious condition and connected to a respirator. Two of the victims are Romanian workers.

Meanwhile, Issam Nahulsi, a Jerusalem Arab injured in last week's blast along with his uncle, who died, was released from Hadassah yesterday. Eight others from that terror attack remain at Hadassah: one very serious, four serious, and three with moderate injuries.

Three are still hospitalized there from the car a terrorist drove into a crowd of people at a French Hill hitchhiking station, and three more are at Hadassah-University Hospital, Mt. Scopus. They suffered light to moderate injuries.



STATE OF ISRAEL MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

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The Voters Register will be displayed for inspection by the public from March 3 to March 11, 1996.

2. If your name should be included in the register and does not appear, or there is an error in the listing of your name or address, you may submit an appeal at any Population Registration office until March 12, 1996.

Do Not Forget to Bring Your Identity Card

3. Anyone who submits such an appeal and does not receive a reply by March 17, 1996, or who receives a reply he considers inadequate, is entitled to appeal to the District Court by Monday, March 22, 1996. Such an appeal is not subject to a court fee.

INFORMATION BY PHONE

Inquiries regarding registration in the voters rolls may be made by phone at any one of the following numbers, from March 3, 1996, to March 11, 1996 (except for Saturday), 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

COMPUTERIZED INFORMATION: TELEPHONE OPERATORS:

HEBREW	177-022-3991	177-022-0280
ARABIC	177-022-5447	177-022-0281
RUSSIAN	177-022-5991	177-022-0282
AMHARIC	177-022-6224	177-022-0283
ENGLISH	177-022-3998	177-022-0284

From 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. (excluding Friday and Saturday)

02-6522148	03-5034181	06-323047	06-521492	09-583112
02-6522149	03-5034182	06-323128	06-521451	09-581070
02-6523705	03-5193286	06-791725	07-340861	09-560879
02-294769	03-5193284	06-921474	07-340862	09-7677255
02-290211	03-5194400	06-921424	07-296463	09-7677285
02-290241	03-9666350	06-508515	07-296464	09-612534
02-290245	03-9666482	06-508535	07-296465	09-623994
02-294816	03-9666196	06-508537	07-737165	
03-9311596	04-616224	06-791723	07-737612	
03-9311906	04-616227	06-791724	08-214711	
03-9347602	04-9917623	06-521384	08-214713	
03-6722106	04-616231	06-322934	08-457727	
03-6722107	04-616233			

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Hadar Haacramel, Telephone: 04-623166 Published daily, except Saturday, in Jerusalem, Israel by The Palestine Post Ltd. Printed by
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The awakening

In any other democracy, the events of the past 10 days would have forced the government to resign. This is not because the Labor-Meretz coalition has failed to discharge a fundamental responsibility — ensuring the safety of the country's citizens — but because it has consistently failed to tell the people the truth. In a democracy, almost any policy blunder is forgivable. Deliberately and consistently misleading the people is not.

The government has not perpetrated the misrepresentation alone. The whole world has ardently and enthusiastically participated in this Orwellian orgy of deception. Together they have oiled a reckless, out-of-control gamble of a "peace process," awarded the world's leading terrorist a Nobel Peace Prize, and concealed brutal facts and ominous warnings with cotton-candy fairy tales.

Plainly, what is going on between Israel and the Palestinian Arabs is not a peace process. The Oslo agreements, the instruments of this putative process, cannot bring peace. They are not a result of painstaking, thoughtful negotiations conducted by experts in relevant fields and submitted to national debate and deliberation. They are a reflection of the Labor government's hasty decision to unilaterally withdraw from Judea, Samaria, and Gaza.

The thrust of these agreements recalls a child's anguished cry on a Tel Aviv street yesterday. "Enough, enough, enough," she said with heart-breaking frustration. The irresistible desire to say "Enough!" to an embarrassing, agonizing, and image-tarnishing intifada was what animated the Labor government. Mindlessly, haphazardly, and recklessly, it allowed stary-eyed wishful thinkers, with little experience and virtually no knowledge of the region, to fashion a fantasy inspired by the utopian vision of a terminal dreamer. With the best intentions in the world, and catering to Israel's insatiable hunger for peace, they managed to turn a wise, scarred nation which should have known better into a jelly of gullibility.

It is a pity that President Bill Clinton, probably the most devoted friend Israel has ever had in the White House, has also fallen into this Orwellian trap. Yesterday, he portrayed the Islamist suicide bombers as "opponents of the peace process" out to undermine Yasser Arafat. If Arafat had truly opposed terrorism and wanted peace, he would not have arranged a 21-gun salute for Yihye Ayyashi, "The Engineer," who dispatched suicide bombers to kill 50 Israelis, nor would he have called for a jihad against Israel, nor cite the 1974 plan to destroy Israel in

phases in every speech, nor publicly lionize suicide bombers and other terrorists. Nor would he and his ministers, including the ever-civilized Nabil Shaath, insult the world's intelligence by haming Israeli "extremists" for helping the suicide bombers.

These bombers and their dispatchers are out out to undermine Arafat and his regime, and they are not opposed to a process which entails Israeli withdrawal. Had they really wanted to end the process, they would have blown themselves up near Arafat and his entourage, not in downtown Tel Aviv.

What the terrorists want is painfully obvious. They want Israel to withdraw faster, from all the territories, and ultimately from the region. Above all, they want to get credit for this withdrawal. Unfortunately, they have good reason to believe they will achieve precisely that. Over and over again, with a persistence bordering on the obscene, they have been assured that no matter what they do, no matter how many Israelis they slaughter, Israel will continue "the process" and its withdrawal.

It is a terrorist's dream come true. For in the eyes of the Palestinians, particularly their young, it is the terrorists' self-sacrificing, heroic acts which are responsible for Israel's retreat, not Israel's noble determination. They believe, not without reason, that only intifada violence and the killing of Israelis caused Israel to recognize the PLO and sue for peace. If Israel continues to retreat under fire, this belief will become an article of faith.

It will be a shame if Clinton lets himself be seduced into encouraging terrorism by parroting yet again the call for the continuation of the process. What Israel needs from its friends in the US is what it needs from itself at this time: to face the truth. And the truth is that Arafat will not fight fellow Arabs to satisfy Israel or even the US. He may put on a good show. He may manage to convince Hamas it should cease operations for a while. And he may even put some of them behind bars and use the opportunity to kill a few insignificant operatives. But he will not eliminate the terrorist infrastructure.

Arafat is not part of the solution; he is a major part of the problem. For sooner or later Israel will have to wake up and do what it should have done long ago — go after the terrorists with its own forces. At that time, it will have to face an army of 50,000 well-armed Palestinians, and perhaps a sovereign Palestinian state.

It will not be easy nor will it be pleasant. But by then, it will probably not be called a peace process.

ALEX 96



No room for niceties

President Weizman has declared that Israel is at war. Prime Minister Peres went further, labeling the situation "total war."

They are both wrong. For there to be a war, there must be two sides fighting in earnest. Here in Israel there is just one.

War would mean issuing the IDF orders to destroy terror organizations, even at the price of killing civilians who make up the society that supports them. It would mean the IDF bombing demonstrations like the one in Kalkilya, where Hamas backers, in a prelude to the real destruction of buses that would soon follow, burned the effigy of an Egged bus as senior PLO police officials trampled on Israeli flags or looked on.

It would mean wiping out the refugee camp near Hebron where the bombers originated and expelling its inhabitants to Lebanon or elsewhere.

It would mean Israel not being satisfied with just foiling attempted suicide raids on Gush Katif as it did on March 1, but following them up with attacks on the terrorists' home bases within area A of the Palestinian autonomy.

It would mean instructing soldiers to open fire at rock-throwers before they evolve into suicide bombers. Most important, it would mean recreating the deterrence of the IDF, letting the terrorists know that if Israeli women and children are no longer safe, their own families will also no longer be immune.

That is war, and it is ugly. On an individual level, it is unjust.

It sacrifices the ideal of finding a punishment to fit the crime, of executing only those directly responsible for murder. It sacrifices that ideal to the necessity of

JONATHAN BLASS

winning the war and ending the bloodshed by a victory over the enemy society that bears communal responsibility for the conflict.

There can be no way of fighting and winning a "nice" war. If war could be nice, why does the prophetic vision of the end of days foretell its elimination?

World War II was brought to an end by the world's leading democ-

The terrorists must be made to pay a price they find unbearable

cracy with the destruction of two of Japan's cities. German population centers were bombed in retaliation for the bombing of London. More than 100 years ago, the American Civil War was ended as Union General William Tecumseh Sherman drove through the states of the American south burning homes and farms, leading to mass desertion from the Confederate armies.

It was Sherman who reportedly coined the phrase "War is hell," but he visited that hell on the enemies of his country in order to end the conflict with a victory that ensured the security and strength of the United States.

THE ARAB terror attacks on Israel's population just three months before Knesset elections, undermining Shimoo Peres's chances of reelection, demonstrate the terrorists' conviction that any Israeli leadership, whether Labor or Likud, will choose to meet their

murders with concessions rather than the painful retaliation of total war.

As if to reinforce the terrorists' confidence, the government, pursuing a policy of appeasement, consistently counters its critics with the challenge: "What is the alternative?" implying — incorrectly — that none exists.

But the alternative to appeasement is, as it has always been, the prosecution of a just war. And in spite of the price, it is both practically and morally preferable to appeasement and the massacres that are its offshoots.

Driving toward Ashkelon two days before the terror that killed a soldier there, I noticed graffiti on one of the overpasses that had apparently been scribbled there months before: "Rabin, the people are with you."

That message took on ironic meaning three days later, as new graves were dug on Mt. Herzl, not far from Rabin's own, for victims of the terror that the late prime minister had refused to confront.

It is time to recognize that ignoring the murder of our brothers, the insistence that, despite their deaths, life must proceed as usual, is the bogus bravado of the ghetto Jew impotent in the face of the latest pogrom, whose only option was to bury his dead and carry on.

It is totally inappropriate — worse, it is immoral and callous — for a nation capable of fighting back to respond in the same way.

After years of unanswered intifada and terror, we should go to war, make the enemy pay a price it will find unbearable, and win.

The writer, rabbi of Neveh Tzaf in Samaria, heads Ratzon Yehuda, a rabbinical training program for graduates of Yeshivot Hesder.

The dialogue has to go on

HAMAS seems to have achieved what the assassins of Yitzhak Rabin tried but failed to achieve last November — jeopardizing the continuation of the peace process with the Palestinians, and thereby of the whole Middle East peace process.

Yigal Amir managed to get many middle-of-the-roads to turn leftward so as to express identification with the course Rabin had chosen to follow and disgust at the course the extreme right had pursued.

Now the suicide bombers, promised a direct ticket to heaven if they can bring hell to earth, have managed to get the middle-of-the-roads, and even many who define themselves as left-of-center, to take a sharp turn to the right.

If elections were held today, the right would win a landslide victory.

Even among the staunchest supporters of the government's peace policy, many this week feel closer to the demonstrators who on Sunday carried banners reading: "This isn't peace — it's terror" than to those who argue (as Rabin did) that "we must continue with the peace process as if there were no terror, and fight the terror as if there were no peace process."

Unless one is totally lacking in human feeling, one cannot witness the aftermath of a terrorist attack like those this week and think calmly and rationally. Rage, anguish and a sense of helplessness take over, at least momentarily, clouding common sense.

But once the immediate storm of emotion starts to subside, one suddenly realizes that there is no contradiction between saying that what we have at the moment is terror rather than peace, and determining to cooperate both the war against terror

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

important of them Fatah) have given up terror altogether.

There are still several Palestinian organizations, including Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, which believe that they can attain their goals by employing terror. If the peace process does indeed come to a standstill as a result of this week's events, they will have been proven right.

The question now is: How should Israel wage war against the terrorists? On its own, as it did in the past before the peace process got underway, or in cooperation with those forces on the other side who have come to realize that murder is not and cannot be a ticket to heaven?

If the goal is to get everyone on the Palestinian side to give up terror, the only way is to continue the dialogue and the cooperation.

Needless to say, this does not mean that our security forces should just sit back and wait for the Palestinians to do the job.

They cannot do the job alone, and should not be expected to.

There are parts of Palestinian society that have accepted the peace process and the need for coexistence as a reality, and these sectors constitute a majority, though not large enough as yet.

But anyone who thinks that acting in such a way as to alienate these sectors will help do away with the terror is badly mistaken.

Israel must be firm and decisive in its war against terror, and in the memory of all the victims of terror.

This war must indeed be given top priority. However, it cannot and should not be the only item on the agenda.

One development in this process has been that the main Palestinian organizations (most

and the battle for peace.

The problem is to be found elsewhere, and it is this: How does one carry on the war against terror so that it is effective without simultaneously killing the peace process?

President Weizman advocates dealing exclusively with the terror, and — at least for the time being — dropping the peace

process altogether. With the public mood what it is, there is probably a majority supporting him on this point.

BUT Weizman is wrong. On the technical level, one can wage war against terror without talking to the other side.

Israel fought Palestinian terror for several decades without talking to the Palestinians. In this way the terror was checked and contained — not defeated — despite many impressive successes along the way.

What has happened in the last few years is that as the result of a slow evolutionary process among both Israelis and Palestinians, the two sides have started to talk to each other and begun to try and resolve the century-long conflict between them by peaceful means.

One development in this process has been that the main Palestinian organizations (most

of them Fatah) have given up terror altogether.

The writer is a political scientist.

Step down

YOSEF GOELL

Shimoo Peres has devoted his entire adult life to the service and security of Israel.

He played a major role in obtaining the weapons that enabled victory in the War of Independence. In the mid-'50s, he was the key figure in the breakthrough to France that enabled a poorly-armed Israel to stand up to its Soviet-armed Arab enemies.

And Peres is identified with the creation of Israel's nuclear deterrent, which has proved Israel's major card over the last 30 years of conflict.

But the greatest service that this supreme patriot could render his country today would be to tender his resignation as prime minister and minister of defense and retire from active politics.

On Sunday, in the wake of the fourth terrorist outrage in seven days, Peres tried to persuade us that he has made a 180-degree turnabout from his previous "peace" policy.

But it just won't wash — not with the Israel public, nor with Arafat.

Peres declared that he would accord top priority to Israel's personal security, that he would permit nothing to stand in the way of quashing Hamas and other Islamic terror groups.

He made similar statements a week ago following the bus bombings in Jerusalem and Ashkelon, but Palestinians continued to stream into Jerusalem through the sieve of the "closure" Peres decreed after the first outrage.

There is ample reason to question the ability of any sincere political leader to make the sort of volte-face Peres would have us believe he has made, and will maintain.

And what about Peres's belated adoption of the internal security minister's proposals for far-going physical separation from the Palestinians after successfully leading the political struggle to quash those very proposals for the past year?

MORE THAN any other political leader, Peres has been identified

The greatest service Peres could render his country today would be to resign

with the underlying premises of the Oslo process.

These were predicated on the assertion that Yasser Arafat and a large part of the Palestinian population represented by his Fatah organization have decided to make peace with Israel, and on the belief that Arafat and his terrorist-turned-politicians would quash the remaining Palestinian opponents of peace and end their terror strikes against Israelis.

In contrast to many Israelis who are hungry for real peace and an end to the century-long armed confrontation with Arab and Palestinian nationalists, who were ready to test these assumptions with great care, Peres committed himself totally to their validity.

During the two-and-a-half years of the Oslo process, which he engineered and into which he dragged an initially reluctant Yitzhak Rabin, Peres led the Labor government doves in gutting the few safeguards and reservations Rabin had insisted on inserting into the accords with the Palestinians.

Peres was wrong — all down the line. He admitted as much in his press conference on Sunday. His problem: Carrying out the anti-terrorist program he delineated will require a degree of public confidence no leader with his record can hope to mobilize.

Worse than that, the only hope of an anti-terror campaign being effective involves the return of Israeli forces to hot pursuit in the territories of the Palestinian autonomy, and the resort to punitive measures against those sectors of the Palestinian population who abet and support the Hamas terrorists.

This can be done without totally negating the prospects of far-going separation between the two peoples only if the right message is sent to Arafat and the pragmatic Palestinian leadership around him.

And the only effective signal of that sort would be Peres's resignation, which would carry the clear message that Israel rejects the policies hitherto espoused by Peres, together with the mistaken assumptions on which they were predicated.

It is simply not credible, either to Arafat or the Israel public, that a "repentant" Peres can really dissociate himself from his own policies and deepest beliefs.

The writer comments on public affairs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE ECONOMIC FACTOR

Sir, — The Labor Party has moved forward the date of elections. Obviously, they believe that their chances of winning the election will worsen by October. Many believe they fear a deterioration in the security situation with an increase in terror and a failure of Arafat to meet his many commitments to Israel. But, I suggest that you take more seriously the words of Labor Party politicians who explain the haste as due to worsening economic conditions. The Israeli economy has paid a high price for the political manipulation that gives an impression of stability and growth.

Economic benefits were bought through an overvaluation of the shekel. This financial maneuver led to a major deterioration in the country's balance of trade. A country that begs the US for a gift of \$3 billion dollars each year, threw away \$10.3 billion last year because of an imbalance between exports and imports. This instability will force the government in the near future to devalue significantly the shekel, causing a major jump in the inflation rate.

The Oslo Agreement is also a major negative force on our economy. It has already cost the Israeli economy over \$2b. in one year. The PA was given \$306m. — justified as a return for Israeli customs and value-added tax. Army redeployment is estimated as an additional \$1b. We pay a subsidy of at least \$750m.

through the property stolen and transferred to the PA. And we ask a bargain price from the PA for water, electricity, medical assistance and telephone service.

There are also many indirect costs. Israeli farmers are paid to destroy produce because of the cheaper agricultural goods coming from Gaza — farming that uses dangerous pesticides, irrigated by contaminated water, subjected to various agricultural diseases and utilizing child labor.

Customs receipts will decline because of increased smuggling, with twice as many narcotics reaching our youth since 1992. Israeli manufacturers will lose sales because of cheap imitations. And damage to the ecology in Judea, Samaria and Gaza will lead to the spread of infectious diseases — to humans, animals and vegetation — greater air and water pollution, and endangered water supplies.

The coming year will see a rise in taxes, increased inflation, a decline in health and other services, an increase in poverty and stagnation in the educational system. No wonder Labor wants the election now. We must take this opportunity and change the government in order to prevent further damage to the Israeli society and economy.

ALBERT I. GOLDBERG
Raifa.

FIRST BAT MITZVA

Sir, — I refer to your article of February 18, "First bat-mitzva girl dies at 86." I am 88 now. I had my bat mitzva at the age of 13 in Berlin, that means in 1920. And my bat mitzva was not one of the first. It was already a few years since Jewish girls in Germany had their bat

mitzva officially at the age of 13. We had to learn Torah much more intensively for a year. The ceremony took place in the synagogue and we were blessed by a rabbi after his appropriate speech.

Jerusalem.
ELSE WALLACH

SEMANTIC QUIBBLING

Sir, — I believe I saw the posters that Rabbi Forman referred to in his article of February 21. There were a whole bunch of them displayed near Mea She'arim. There was one poster with Cytryn and Popper appearing together. At the demonstration itself, there were posters of both Popper and Cytryn. "Women for Israel's Tomorrow" knew full well that their demonstration was a joint one. I have been active in trying to free

Jonathan Pollard and am a supporter of the settler movement, but I oppose the "mixing of milk and meat" (Popper and Cytryn). Rabbi Forman did not create this uncohesive alliance. Accusing him of maligning the truth is semantic quibbling. It seems that your paper botched the whole matter by having Rabbi Forman submit an apology.

JONATHAN GORADESKY
Jerusalem (Fresh Meadows, N.Y.)

LACK OF EXPERIENCE

Sir, — Solomon Ezra's article of February 16 explaining the causes of the terrible frustration and anger of the Ethiopian community should be required reading for all who care. As a mother of one of their teachers, none of what he writes surprises me.

The challenge of integrating these wonderful people has fallen on teenage girls. In many cases, the "special classes" are taught, not by the school's most experienced teachers, but by young soldiers and Sherut Leumi volunteers. With very rare exceptions, even the best of intentions and the enthusiasm of youth do not provide them with the experience and maturity needed.

Unfortunately, our government's priorities do not include sufficient professional staff.

BATYA MEDAD
Shiloh.

THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE GRAVEYARD

Sir, — Rabbi Jonathan Blass writes (February 5) that we Israeli Jews should pay more attention to physical things, such as "nature" and "geography." In other words, we should strive for a larger state of Israel (for "Greater Israel") and not give up Judea, Samaria and Gaza to the Arabs. This respect for physical things, he says, is necessary, and if we do not think enough about physical things and think only about "spiritual" things, we will have "the spirituality of the graveyard."

But Rabbi Blass looks at the "territories" and sees only fields and hills and trees. He should also take a good look at the other highly "physical" things there: two million Arab men, women and children. And, very perversely, they want very much a "spiritual thing": The freedom to manage their affairs. A spiritual thing which we Jews prize very highly for ourselves.

Talking about the "spirituality and freedom of the graveyard," Blass's program would bring more graveyards than Peres's. For six years we had the intifada and every day we heard of one or more new graves, whether Jewish or Arab. What can Rabbi Blass do? But perversely, many of us believe in a certain "spiritual thing": democracy.
CARL WOLK
Tel Aviv.

مكتبة الأصيل

Flamenco Road: Back from Spain

SHARON Sagy was planning only short visits to her native Israel. The flamenco dancer, who has been based in Spain for the last three years, had returned to Jerusalem for one performance and a rest at her parents' comfortable apartment.

Then her plans went awry. "I went to Nueiba for a few days to rest and found myself at the Hilton Hotel there. I showed them my flamenco show and they liked it a lot and invited me to stay at the hotel and do my presentation three-four times a week. It was great for me, the perfect combination of a holiday and work."

By the time the Egyptian gig was over, Sagy was back in Jerusalem preparing for what promises to be the most comprehensive flamenco celebration ever here, Dias de Flamenco.

The second annual flamenco

competition, at Tel Aviv's Suzanne Dellal Center Thursday through Saturday, is organized in memory of Adi Agmon, a friend of Sagy's who died of cancer before fulfilling her wish to study flamenco abroad.

Sagy is participating as both juror and dancer. Last year's winner, Carmel Natan-Shely, will also be among the performers.

Sagy discovered flamenco "many, many years ago when I saw a performance by Antonio Gades. I was 16 and I simply fell in love with this art form." After graduating from Gymnasia Rehavia in Jerusalem and completing her military service, Sagy went to Spain. "I thought that if

[learning flamenco] was what I wanted to do, there was no point in starting to study in Israel and then going to Spain."

So for 18 months Sagy studied about six hours a day in Madrid. "But I did not have enough money to stay there forever, so I returned to Israel and began to perform and teach. Yet each and every year I returned to Spain and continued my studies."

In 1992, Sagy joined a flamenco group for a six-month tour in Mexico during which she was injured in a serious car accident, and returned home to recover.

"By that time, I realized that there is no point in splitting my life between Jerusalem and

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Madrid. It was as if I did not have any real home, any real place of my own."

Professionally "there is no way to develop here. The level in Israel reaches a certain point and that is that. So you must go to Spain to further your studies. I know some people might be offended by what I say, but this is the truth."

So now Sagy makes her home in the Spanish capital where she regularly appears in flamenco clubs and works with various local ensembles. And still, at least once a year, she returns here to perform. "I just did a great show

at the Jerusalem Theater. It was sold out and many interested people could not get in. Next time I'll do a bigger tour and perform in Tel Aviv, too."

Flamenco, Sagy explains, is much more than castanets and exotic Spanish music. "Flamenco is a combination of music, singing and dancing. It is an art form which was developed in Andalusia by gypsies, who knew how to weave a magical concoction from the influences of various cultures that flourished there."

WHILE FLAMENCO can be traced back to the 14th century, its real boost came in the 19th

century with the introduction of new rhythms, some Western ones, others South American.

"Flamenco is an art form that derives from the lower depths of society and in that way it is very similar to the blues." In the last half a century flamenco has developed one step further. "It used to be much simpler, but now more instruments have been added as well as elements from other dance styles. It all began with Paco de Lucia who added the flute and the percussion to his flamenco ensemble."

In recent decades, flamenco has broken from tiny flamenco clubs where it was nurtured to huge theaters and festivals.

"There are many large companies and huge acts, and in a way it does take away from the refinement of the art form. But it also helps in the overall recognition of flamenco."

Flamenco is an individual's art, Sagy says. "The big companies changed that as well, but the good ones enable their members to dance solos too and not just splashy group numbers."

Flamenco is, above all, something the audience feels. "I started because I saw a show and fell in love. You must feel flamenco first and foremost. After that, you have to work a lot to obtain a great technical base. You need rhythm and a little musicality. Without that, you cannot succeed."

And although flamenco flourishes all over the world, "in Spain there are too many artists and by far too little work."

Classic comes to a bad end

FILM REVIEW ADINA HOFFMAN

THE SCARLET LETTER

Directed by Roland Joffé. Written by Douglas Day Stewart. From the novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne. Hebrew title: *Et Kolon*. 130 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Children under 17 not admitted without an adult.

Hester Prynne — Demi Moore
Arthur Dimmesdale — Gary Oldman
Roger Chillingworth — Robert Duvall

THREE-quarters of the way through Roland Joffé's *The Scarlet Letter*, the following thought skittered, rat-like, across my mind: A print of this movie should be packed tightly in a waterproof case and buried, to be unearthed and examined by anthropologists and film historians in the year 2096.

Not, mind you, because the movie, "freely adapted from the novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne," is some timeless masterpiece. No, a complete disaster from its very first frames, the picture merits preservation because it sums up more pithily than any other film of the last several years the current, mindhogging state of Hollywood hubris.

If only this were a joke.

Alas, it's dead serious. Not only is Joffé and scriptwriter Douglas Day Stewart's rendition of *The Scarlet Letter* one of the dumbest screen treatments of a classic novel on record, it's more hostile to the original text than any other film adaptation of a book that I can remember. And their travesty of Hawthorne hardly qualifies as an "interpretation" or "alternative reading." The creepiest thing about the movie — and what makes it impossible to simply laugh away — is the maniacal glee we feel on the part of the filmmakers as they sack and burn the book.

Gone is Hawthorne's measured account of the trials visited on serene Hester Prynne, a seamstress forced by the Puritan authorities to wear the mark of disgrace, a bright red A on her bodice, for her crime of adultery with a man she refuses to name. Gone is that man, the pale preacher Arthur Dimmesdale, whose life is literally leeched away by his secret remorse and Hester's Mephistophelean husband, the coldly bookish Roger Chillingworth.

Instead, Joffé and Stewart give us a sunny, uplifting, post-feminist love story from which all that pesky religious and psychological ambiguity of Hawthorne's has been banished. (In order to make every last detail absolutely crystal clear, they provide a full hour of hot-and-heavy screen action before arriving at the point where the book's narrative even begins.)

This Hester Prynne (Demi Moore) is a tough sex-kitten who wears her hair in a bun and Hassidic sidelocks and who seems, despite her 17th-century birdcage, to have spent some time curled up with *Our Bodies, Our Selves*. She loves to lounge in a candlelit bath and spy on Reverend Dimmesdale (Gary Oldman) when he's skinny dipping. His long stringy tresses and drooping mustache give him the look of a heavy-metal rock star and make Hester go weak in the knees. He thinks she's cute too.

Soon, they throw themselves at each other, with dialogue that sounds like Jackie Collins read aloud by the guys from Monty Python. ("Oh Hester! I dreamed of this speaking thy heart!" "Oh Arthur! I love thee and I cannot live without thee!") A slow-motion tumble in the hay ensues. One of the most inscrutably orgasmic sex scenes in recent R-rated movie memory, this sequence cuts back and forth between Hester and Dimmesdale getting it on in the barn and Meruba, a black slave girl, splashing around ecstatically in Hester's bathtub, as a symbolic scarlet bird watches....

But the film is full of bowlers too numerous to list. These range from the sing-song voice-over narration by Hester's grown daughter, Pearl, to the politically correct addition of subtitles about the oppressed Algonquin tribes



Nathaniel Hawthorne wouldn't recognize Hester and Arthur's frolic in the New England woods.

and the downtrodden Salem witches, to a singularly dreadful performance by Robert Duvall, as Chillingworth. Arguably the most complicated character in Hawthorne's novel, he's plain psychotic here — reduced to a wild-eyed wife beater.

The cheerful ending has already been widely attacked, and even defended by some including novelist Joyce Carol Oates, who wrote that the film's close is much more female, of all things, than the book's, in which Dimmesdale collapses and dies after publicly

confessing his sin, and Hester lives on into old, lonely age. Personally, I had no particular complaints about the way Hester, Dimmesdale and little Pearl rode off into the sunset. Happiness, they say, is seeing Lubbock, Texas, in your rearview mirror.

Joaney baloney vs Joan of art

NEW RELEASES TIRZAH AGASSI

OH St. Teresa higher than the moon" sings Joan Osborne, her voice sweet yet rough around the edges, on the haunting opening cut of *Relish* (Helicon). The sounds of mandolins and images of rosaries mingle in a dreamlike story that keenly conveys the sorrow and hunger of drug dependency.

It's a wonderful song and Kentucky-born blueswoman Osborne is a young artist with which to be reckoned. Unfortunately, however, her delivery and selection of material are still a little uneven.

There are some great standouts here. Most notably "One Of Us," the surprise hit which muses "What if God was one of us? Just a slob like one of us?" and "Spiderweb," a rollicking, wildly witty ode to the spirit of Ray Charles.

But when Osborne gets down with "Right Hand Man," an irreverent description of masturbation, its repetitive music loses the impact of its surprising lyrics. The same can be said for "Let's Just Get Naked." It's good clean, naughty fun that must get the crowds on the East Coast blues club scene screaming. But it's not exactly original.

Osborne has talent and wicked honesty on her side. When she sings high and clear, she's one of a kind, an inspired, crazy angel. But when she digs throats into the rocking blues she sounds like a young Bonnie Raitt on a fair-to-middling day.

The same can be said of her back-up band. When they get really whacked out, as with the jungle beat of "Spiderweb," they go to exciting new places. But when they get bogged down in hammering home the same old "I feel lousy and/or rebellious" blues theme, genius flies straight out of the window.

THERE IS A lot of music-CD collections of instrumentals.

Some of it is fascinatingly paced — for example the first disc which opens with *The Shadows*' "Apache" moving through *The Tornados*' "Telstar," *The Village Stompers*' "Washington Square" and into film themes "March From The River Kwai," "The Magnificent Seven," "The Good, The Bad And The Ugly," "A Fistful Of Dollars" and TV's "Bonanza."

The collection also offers oodles of easy-listening pieces. Perhaps familiarity is the factor that makes "The Pink Panther Theme" and "Love Theme from Romeo and Juliet" so much more palatable than the string of waltzes.

If you like instrumentals and movie sound tracks, items like the Dave Brubeck Quartet's "Take Five," "Chariots of Fire" and even a section of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony should appeal. But 73 instrumentals back to back? The word "overkill" comes to mind.

THE NINETIES So Far (Hed Arzi) is a meticulously selected collection of 17 songs worth keeping.

The off-the-wall "What's Up" by the 4 Non Blonds may not be Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame material, but it does have the sharp edge of that moment in which a group fronted by an oddly shaped San Francisco lesbian broke through onto MTV.

Ugly Kid Joe's cover of "Cais in the Cradle," a lovely acoustic tune about absent fathers that was a hit in the '70s, is a sad reminder of the current situation in which, to paraphrase humorist Fran Lebowitz: the lower classes have no fathers, the middle class have no mothers and the upper classes have neither.

Meanwhile, Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers provide guitar wizardry with "Learning To Fly." The Pretenders deliver with the ballad "I'll Stand By You" and REM recommend that you just "Drive." Country singer K.D. Lang gets deep with "Constant Craving." Vaya Con Dios get dramatic with "Heading For A Fall." Red Hot Chili Peppers cut through with "Soul to Squeeze" and the Scorpions give us the inspirational, powerful ballad "Wind of Change."

These are quite simply good songs. Sure the corn abounds. But isn't tugging at the heartstrings what music for the masses was, is, and always will be about?

Electronics: New music, but old ideas

THE Musica Nova Consort program focusing on the interplay between electronic technology and music stimulated neither the intellect nor the emotions.

Hagar Kadima's *Gestures of Surprising Endings* merely restates a number of conventional cadences used in the Classical and Romantic eras, adjusting them slightly to more "modern" harmonics.

Francis White's *Winter Acinities*, echoes electronic jazz à la Weather Report, pieces by John Cage, Morton Feldman's minimalism and George Crumb's silences. White keeps the frustrated listener below the minimal threshold of stimulation necessary to keep our mental balance.

Charles Dodge's *Any Resemblance is Purely Coincidental* also seems to suffer from absence of inventiveness. He thus uses Caruso's voice in *Pagliacci*. He changes pitches and causes distortion, but besides some funny moments the piece says nothing.

Rather similar is *Il Nome* by Richard Karpen, who juxtaposes electronic and concrete sounds, including the voice of a singer with a live soprano part. Hundreds of such pieces already exist, and most of them are just poor imitations of what Pierre Henry had already done significantly in his masterpiece, *Le Voile d'Orphée*, in 1953. All these pieces are a rather cruel testimony to a complete bankruptcy of musical creativity.

Also on the program was Arik Shapira's controversial electronic opera, *The Kastner Trial*, which, unlike the previous works, avoids eclecticism and recycling of any kind. It does, however, raise another issue. Does this particular presentation of acoustic material based on the actual texts of the court proceedings really help us apprehend the magnitude of the

CONCERT ROUNDUP

subject and its colossal political implications?

Enav Center, Gan Ha'ir, Tel Aviv, February 29.
Benjamin Bar-Am

In an all-Bach program of the Rehovot Camerata's subscription concert No. 5, conducted by Avner Biran, the opening Triple Fugue provided the evening's most profoundly impressive moments. The unfinished work combined intricate yet transparently woven texture with all-pervading spirituality, coming to an abrupt end.

Xenia Meijer from the Netherlands, in Cantatas No. 109 ("I believe, dear Lord, help my Disbelief") and No. 103 ("Ye shall be weeping"), sounded pleasantly soft when audible, but mostly distant and weak, particularly in the low tones, which is not precisely what one expects from a mezzo-soprano. The Swiss tenor Hans Jürg Rickenbacher is bright and clear but sang matter-of-factly, in a manner unbefitting the text. The Jerusalem Rubin Academy Choir has some delightfully glamorous female voices, while the male ones sound insignificant and undernourished.

In the Concerto for Flute, Violin, Harpsichord and Strings, Iris Goffer, Yuri Gluchovsky and his Globerson displayed well-consolidated teamwork. That's worth being grateful for in the absence of a discernible personal note of each individual artist.

Jerusalem Theater, February 28.
Ury Eppstein

recital of Sasha Toperich. Wagner's heart-oppressed emotionalism was expressed with exciting intensity, and Liszt's murderously demanding technical challenges were answered with brilliant virtuosity.

First performances of Israeli pieces, Dina Smorgonsky's *Six Haiku* and Ido Shiron's *Sonata-Fantasia*, proved strongly contrasting with each other. The Japanese poetic haiku form was represented musically by concise, delicate vignettes, suggestively stimulating the imagination. Shiron, on the other hand, displayed exuberant, overflowing, adolescent emotion; the piece was simplistically overstated.

Toperich, 23, a recent immigrant from Sarajevo, displayed outstanding musicality in three of Beethoven's less-known sets of Variations, and Chopin mazurkas. He has an enjoyably light hand that nevertheless is capable of producing weighty, resounding chords. His well-developed sense of musical form, ability to shape melodic phrases and use of abundant dynamic nuances make him sensitive to detail without losing sight of the whole. His rendition of the mazurkas was departed from the usual elegant interpretation and highlighting their folkloric roots.

Jerusalem Music Center, Mishkenot Sha'ananim, March 1.
Ury Eppstein

SCENES from *The Marriage of Figaro* were presented at the Israel Sinfonietta. Beersheba's popular "Jewels of the Opera" No. 3 series. Conductor Stanley Sperber opted for secure tempi and standard interpretation of Mozart's masterpiece.

There were no surprises either from the cast: Sivan Rotem (Susanna), Robin Weisel-Capsuto (Cherubino and the countess) and Yuri Kissin (Figaro). All possess confident, well-trained voices and schooled acting technique. However, a thinner voiced, more vulnerable haritone, Viktor Kotek brought life and dramatic presence to the role of Count Almaviva.

Beersheba Conservatory.
Max Stern

Finkel: A stage lion in winter

CONFESSIONS OF AN ACTOR

Wrote to Shimon Finkel on his 90th birthday. Arranged by Shimon Finkel after Anton Chekhov. Direction: Yoram Falk. Design: Iris Reitzels. Music: Etti Shoshani. Lighting: Arich Katz. Hebrew title: *Ukhat shel Sukhat*. At Bimantel, Habimah National Theater.

Cast: Shimon Finkel in extracts from *The Merchant of Venice, Hamlet, Othello, King Lear* and *Boris Godunov* among others.

THEATER REVIEW NAOMI DOUDAI

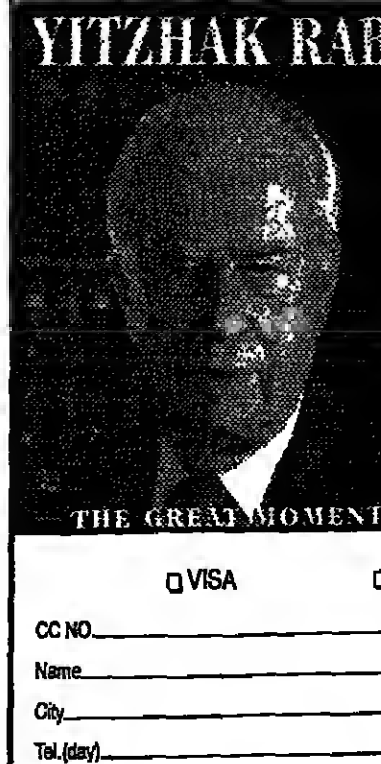
itself a remarkable feat.

Turned out in rakish top hat and tails, he totters onstage in the persona of a drunken actor looking back. We watch him in wonder parading all his greats. But for many of us, remembering him in his most formidable roles, there is no doubt that the greatest of them all is Finkel playing Finkel.

If only as an exercise in nostalgia accompanied by a sense of déjà vu, this is a moving evening. But it also has the quality of a historic document. As a living record of the time-tested bistrionic tricks of an old school of acting, it makes its mark.

The fads and foibles, boisterous mannerisms, the unbridled ardor, the heartrending pathos of the original Habimah school are all recalled here. But above all what is registered in the grand manner with all its posturing and poses is the pure passion of the old-time player for his stage and his single-minded dedication to his chosen métier.

In the audience were those who had not seen Finkel perform before. Here they had their first encounter with the old-fashioned Russian style and Russian inflection that dominated the early Hebrew stage. Judging by the fervor of their applause, this was for the youngsters as unforgettable an experience as it was for their elders.



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#1	1	VARIOUS ARTISTS	RABIN - GOODBYE FRIEND
#2	2	NICK CAVE	MURDER BALLADS
#3	3	MADONNA	SOMETHING TO REMEMBER
#4	6	OASIS	MORNING GLORY
#5	4	SIVAN SHAVIT	THIS BLUE-GRAY LIGHT
#6	5	ASBA	GOLD
#7	13	FILM SOUND TRACK	FRISCOLLA
#8	21	SADE	BEST OF
#9	12	VARIOUS ARTISTS	WALKING IN A DREAM
#10	9	FILM SOUND TRACK	DANGEROUS MINDS
#11	8	ARAKADI DUCHIN	ARKADI DUCHIN
#12	11	VANGELIS	VOICES
#13	10	FILM SOUND TRACK	1482
#14	7	SITA	GRAND LOVE
#15	11	YEHUDA POLIKER	THE CHILD IN YOU

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week RE - re-entry

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Tuesday, March 5, 1996

Strauss: Unilever hasn't changed local investment plans

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

UNILEVER has made no changes in its regional investment plans, Strauss Ice Cream general manager Shaul Shelach said yesterday. Strauss has recently entered a strategic partnership with the British-Dutch packaged consumer goods giant.

Unilever will contribute to Strauss Ice Cream's development of new products and help develop its presence on the local market as part of its partnership agreement with the company, the Strauss executive said.

Shelach said Unilever has long-term plans to expand Strauss activities to all of the Middle East but at this stage, there are no specific plans. He emphasized the recent wave of suicide attacks have not stalled Unilever's development plans for the company.

Unilever purchased a 50 percent stake in Strauss ice-cream division in September, 1995 in the framework of the giant international food and consumer product makers plans to increase its activ-

ities in the Middle East region. The agreement was signed with the intention of contributing to Strauss technological know-how and to add Unilever brand names to the Strauss line of products.

"The partnership with Unilever will be seen mainly in major strategic decisions," said Michal Strauss, chairman of Strauss Ice Cream.

Commenting on Strauss's expected sales for 1996, Shelach predicted the company will maintain its leading position in the \$170m. market but refused to reveal profit and sales figures. He said the company's recent merger with Whitman has not only increased its line of ice-creams but also improved its distribution network.

Shelach said the fire which damaged its Acre facility six months ago has been restored and as a result of the introduction of new equipment, the factory's production capacity has increased 50 percent.

Underwriters concerned terror attacks may delay IDB's share offer

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE wave of terrorist attacks may cause a delay in Israel Discount Bank's share offering on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange Thursday, underwriters said yesterday.

The underwriters said the recent terrorism attacks are hindering the business community's ability to function.

A source close to the offering said, "If everything continues to operate as usual, the offering will take place. But if we continue to have explosions it will be very difficult for people to make business decisions."

Capital market analysts said the success of the offering is primarily dependent on foreign investors participation, adding that the recent suicide attacks may deter some of the foreign investors. But sources in touch with institutional investors abroad said it is not likely that they will withdraw their pre-commitments to purchase stock.

"Just like people did not run away from London after the explosion, there is no reason why they should not invest here now,"

Terrorism is an international problem. I expect investors to behave rationally and take the bank and the economy into account in making their decisions."

Thirty-five European institutional investors have pre-committed to purchase 36 million shares, equivalent to 60% of the total stock offered for the sale of 14%-16% of Discount Bank. The minimum price was set at NIS 3.32. The government expects to immediately raise about NIS 215.5m. from the issue.

Among the investors are Republic (Guernsey) Investments, the investment fund of Republic Bank which is owned by the Safra family, which pre-committed to purchase 10 million shares, for NIS 3.3 per share. Other foreign investors include Bank Sal Oppenheim, Scottish Widows Investments Management, Societe Generale and Rothschild Asset Management.

According to one analyst, the

feeling among local investors is that foreign investors will have to play a major role in the Bank Discount offering in order to make it succeed.

"The basic feeling among local investors is that the offering is okay, but not very attractive at the set price. But, if the foreign investors go in a big way, like they did in the case of Isrotel, it could be a good offering," the analyst said.

According to Discount Bank's prospectus published at the end of last week, Discount Bank will have to sell its shares in First International Bank in addition to its shares in Mercantile Discount Bank, in line with bank law. Discount Bank currency controls 26.45% of First International's share capital and about 11% of its voting rights.

Discount Bank will also have to sell its 35% stake in Israel Credit Cards, which issues the Visa credit card here and also sell its shares to the Workers Compensation Fund.

MKs fail to pass new electricity bill before IEC's franchise expires

THE Knesset plenum will decide whether the Israel Electric Corporation's virtual monopoly should be extended for another 10 years or only for six, the Knesset Finance Committee decided yesterday.

Meanwhile, in an embarrassing failure for the government, the Knesset was unable to pass the new electricity bill before the IEC's 70-year franchise expired at midnight last night.

However, the legal vacuum should not affect the electricity supply.

"From a legal standpoint, everyone knows the new bill will be retroactive to March 4," explained Knesset legal adviser Zvi Inbar. "Since the alternative is to cut off the country's electricity, even a legal formalist like me says [the IEC] should continue."

The Finance Committee had made massive efforts to finish the bill before the franchise expired, and finally voted on it yesterday morning, intending to bring it to the plenum for its second and third readings that afternoon.

However, deputy speaker Ovadia Eli unexpectedly closed the plenum session before noon, after MKs and ministers responsible for presenting the bills on the agenda repeatedly failed to show up.

House rules forbid a session to be reopened once it has been closed, and while a new session could theoretically be called, speaker Shevah Weiss accepted Inbar's assessment that too many MKs had already left the building and could not be notified in time for such a session.

The bill will therefore be brought to the plenum on Thursday.

The government, supported by most of the Labor MKs in the committee, wants the franchise extended for 10 years.

However, committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) and Meretz wanted six years, so the MKs agreed to send both versions to the plenum, with no recommendation.

The government is being strongly backed by the IEC union, which has threatened not to accept any changes to the original bill.

Gal has countered by warning that his colleagues' public image will be damaged if they give into

these threats.

With the coalition split, the opposition could theoretically decide the issue.

However, opposition MKs have boycotted all discussions and most votes on the bill, on the grounds that it maintains the IEC's monopoly and therefore deserves to be scrapped entirely; if they continue this practice, the government version would probably pass.

If the opposition turned out in force, however, it could theoretically cause both proposals to be defeated by joining with the government for the vote on the Gal proposal and with Gal and Meretz for the vote on the government proposal.

In such a case, the bill would be sent back to committee, where the opposing groups within the coalition would presumably hammer out a compromise that could be passed over the opposition's objections.

The bill already includes other changes introduced by Gal, of which the most important is that private producers will be able to sell directly to customers instead of only to the IEC.

The original bill, though it permitted 10% of the total electricity supply to be produced by private firms, would have forced these companies to sell their electricity exclusively to the IEC, which would then resell it to customers.

The revised bill states that private producers can sell directly to their customers, using the IEC as a carrier, with the IEC receiving a fee for this service. The fee will be set by a public authority established by the bill.

The second major change introduced by Gal is to strengthen the authority.

Originally, it was supposed to be a government body.

However, Gal's changes state that two of the five members will be appointed by a public commission, and the authority will have its own budget, approved by the Finance Committee, instead of being funded by the Energy Ministry.

Electricity rates will be set by the entire authority, rather than by its chairman, and the chairman will be appointed for a five-year term rather than serving at the government's pleasure.

Propper: Increase in terrorism won't deter foreign investors

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE wave of suicide attacks will not freeze foreign investments aimed at establishing Israel as a regional headquarters, Osem President Dan Propper said yesterday, responding to fears in the capital markets that foreigners might turn their backs at a terrorism-plagued Middle East.

According to Propper, who also serves as president of the Manufacturers Association, foreign investors are aware that the peace process is not bound to proceed smoothly.

He said the reaction of foreign investors to terrorist attacks in the past has demonstrated that they

are not easily deterred.

"Whoever enters Israel with the intention of establishing a presence in the Middle East knows that there are ups and downs in the region, but eventually peace will be achieved," Propper said.

Commenting on Nestle, which currently has a 4.9% stake in Osem Industries, Propper said Osem will benefit if Nestle goes ahead with plans to increase its share.

Nestle has an option to purchase about a 10% share of the company's shares, which it has to exercise by July 1996.



Traders at the Barcelona Bourse watch Popular Party leader Jose Maria Aznar during a live TV interview yesterday. Markets punished Spanish bond prices and the peseta in revenge for a general election result which dashed their hopes of the conservatives, led by Aznar, gaining an overall majority in parliament.

Aladdin signs letter of intent to buy FAST

RACHEL NEIMAN

ALADDIN Knowledge Systems has signed a letter of intent to acquire FAST Software Security.

Aladdin said yesterday the transaction will consist of 3.15 million Aladdin shares, plus an additional number of shares whose total value is \$8m.

FAST is one of the world's three largest international software security firms, with 1995 revenues of \$13.5m. Company headquarters are in Munich, Germany.

"Aladdin will continue to develop, promote and support both the Hardlock and HASP product lines," said Aladdin president Yanki Margalit. "The merger will position the joint company as the industry leader." Margalit added that the move would also position Aladdin as a leading software security provider in Europe.

Aladdin has also signed a letter of intent to acquire all the software security related assets of Glenco Engineering, FAST's North American independent licensee, for \$5m. Glenco is responsible for marketing, sales and support of Hardlock products in the Americas, the Far East and the Pacific Rim.

Bill giving land ownership rights to kibbutzim, moshavim passes first reading

EVELYN GORDON

MEMBERS of kibbutzim and moshavim would receive ownership rights to their lands, according to a bill approved with wide support for first reading by the Knesset Finance Committee yesterday.

Currently, members of kibbutzim and moshavim pay outgoings for their land, but in return have no ownership rights, and therefore cannot use the land as collateral for mortgages or other loans.

The bill, by Elie Goldschmidt (Labor) and Anat Maor (Meretz), would recognize kibbutznikim and moshavnikim that have been living on their lands for at least 25 years as capitalized lessees with a 98-year lease.

This means they would have ownership rights worth 91% of the land - the same as the rights of apartment owners who do not own their land.

The committee left the most thorny issue unsettled, however: that of how much the farmers will have to pay for their ownership rights. Goldschmidt explained that the kibbutzim and moshavim are currently negotiating this issue with the Israel Lands Administration, and if a satisfactory compromise is reached, the bill might not even need to be passed.

If not, the committee will decide before the second and third readings.

Goldschmidt said the kibbutznikim and moshavnikim are demanding the same kinds of bargains on the lease payments which the ILA periodically grants for long-term urban leases.

However, he said, he expects the payment scale to be differential, with kibbutzim in the center of the country paying more than those on the periphery, and people who have been living on their land for longer periods of time paying less.

"Everyone agrees that the situation in the agricultural sector, from the point of view of land ownership, is abnormal," Goldschmidt said. "There is no one else in the country who... cannot obtain a mortgage on his land."

This bill, he said, is meant to correct the anomaly as a matter of justice. However, he said, it will also give a boost to financially strapped kibbutzim and moshavim by giving them collateral which they can use to obtain loans. Also give a boost to financially strapped kibbutzim and moshavim by giving them collateral which they can use to obtain loans.

Trafalgar House, owner of QEII, agrees to bargain takeover

LONDON (Reuters) Trafalgar House plc, the luxury cruise liner group that operates the Queen Elizabeth II, agreed yesterday to a bargain-price £904 million takeover by Norwegian shipping conglomerate Kvaerner.

Ending what newspapers have called "five years of unremitting gloom, mismanagement and losses" for Trafalgar, Kvaerner bid 50 pence for each ordinary share and 80 pence each for Trafalgar's convertible preference shares.

Analysts expect Kvaerner to

sell off Trafalgar's luxury cruise line Cunard, which suffered losses of £16.4m in the last financial year after a public relations disaster over a botched refit of its QE II flagship.

Kvaerner, with a market capitalization of £900m., is smaller than its bid target and analysts say it is mainly interested in Trafalgar's engineering and construction businesses, which include Britain's Davy and Sofresid of France.

Hongkong Land, which has been calling most of the shots at Trafalgar since it evicted the previous management led by property tycoon Sir Nigel Brookes and Sir Eric Parker, is part of the Keswick family's Jardine Matheson Asian business empire.

The Keswicks originally invested in Trafalgar to reduce Jardine's exposure to Hong Kong ahead of the Chinese takeover in 1997. But even after sinking £325m. into the troubled conglomerate and following a string of rights issues, they failed to turn the group around.

Trafalgar's fortunes took a further hit last year when it failed in a £1.2 billion bid to buy cash-spinning British regional electricity company Northern Electric.

Bezeq, Nortel sign 'intelligent network' deal

BEZEQ yesterday signed an agreement with Telrad and Nortel (Northern Telecom) for the development of an "intelligent network" that will serve the company in the coming years. Nortel, a large US company, is represented in Israel by Telrad. The \$12 million deal will be implemented by the summer of 1997. Nortel manufactures platforms for the supply of value-added services attached to existing digital phone exchanges. These can be used for billing, dynamic routing of calls depending on the time of day and the caller, volog, marketing, and virtual-reality services.

Judy Siegel

CORRECTION

CONTRARY to what appeared here yesterday, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries has made no announcement whatsoever concerning the American Food and Drug Administration's impending decision pertaining to the company's product Copaxone. We apologize for any consequent misunderstanding.

EU Commission to present gloomy economic report

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - The European Commission will present tomorrow its annual economic report for the European Union, overshadowed by a sharp fall in the Union's growth forecast for the current year.

The report will show that EU economic performance in 1995 was disappointing and that this year's growth will also fail to live up to expectations, Commission officials said.

Economic Affairs Commissioner Yves-Thibault de Silguy has already taken some of the sting out of the report by announcing last week that the Union's economy was expected to grow below two percent in 1996, compared with a 2.6% forecast made in November.

"The report was already partly

unveiled by de Silguy," a Commission official said.

De Silguy told the European Parliament the report had found four main explanations for the current economic downturn.

These were a reduction in stocks, less commitment to reducing budget deficits, an increase in interest rates in 1994 and monetary fluctuations.

He cited in particular Germany, France, Britain and Austria for missing by a percentage point their budget deficit target for 1995.

The yearly report, which is seen mainly as a backward-looking exercise, dips into the European economic situation as a whole, as well as that of all the EU states separately.

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Source: Telephone quotes, May 1994

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French franc (FF 200,000)	1.53	1.99	2.356	
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.250	4.250	4.250	
Japanese yen (JPY 200,000)	1.875	1.875	2.125	
Swiss franc (CHF 200,000)	0.250	0.250	0.625	
Yen (10 million yen)				
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)				
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (4.3.96)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS				
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	BANKNOTES	Rep.
U.S. dollar	3.4886	3.5258	—	3.5011
German mark	3.0722	3.1223	3.02	3.1000
French franc	2.0694	2.1201	2.05	2.1061
Japanese yen (100)	4.7013	4.7772	4.82	4.7415
Dutch guilder	0.8082	0.8161	0.59	0.6137
Swiss franc	2.5204	2.5679	1.53	1.899
British pound	1.8646	1.8947	2.27	2.2498
Spanish peseta (100)	2.5826	2.6040	2.51	2.5866
Italian lira (1000)	0.4522	0.4555	0.44	0.4525
Portuguese escudo (100)	0.4752	0.4870	0.47	0.4766
Belgian franc (100)	0.5403	0.5491	0.53	0.5474
Australian dollar	0.6725	0.6854	0.66	0.6709
Canadian dollar	2.2407	2.2786	2.20	2.2617
South African rand	2.3367	2.3734	2.29	2.3537
Singapore dollar (S\$)	0.7878	0.8007	0.71	0.7367
Malaysian ringgit (RM)	1.2152	1.2316	0.99	1.03
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8890	3.0159	2.91	3.046
Indian rupee (1000)	1.9720	2.0049	1.93	2.004
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.22	4.51
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.87	0.95
ECU	3.6811	3.8234	4.75	4.89
Irish punt	4.8403	4.9184	4.75	4.89
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4614	2.5012	2.41	2.4617
* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.				
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI				

הכרזת הצבע

Women's 100m breaststroke mark set

DURBAN (Reuter) - South African swimmer Penny Heyns broke Samantha Riley's 18-month-old 100 meters breaststroke record yesterday with a powerful performance at the national championships.

Heyns, swimming in a heat, clocked 1:07.46 which shaved 0.23 seconds off the Australian's mark of 1:07.69, set at the World Championships in Rome in 1994.

Twenty-one year old Heyns, who comes from Amanzimtoti just south of Durban and studies at the University of Nebraska, came close to breaking the record at the World Student Games in Japan last year when she clocked 1:07.84. She made no secret of the fact that she would try again in the Nationals.

She was also inspired by a sponsorship deal which would give her 30,000 rand (\$7,690) if she broke the record.

Heyns finished the first 50m in 32.19 seconds, lost some time with a below-par turn and then powered home to take the record.

The new record will add spice to the event at Olympic Games in Atlanta next July when the two next meet.

Riley has had a difficult few weeks after testing positive for a banned pain killer. She was let off with a warning rather than a ban after an inquiry showed her coach was responsible for mistakenly giving her the drug.

Bulls sign Salley, Wennington on injured list

CHICAGO (AP) - The Chicago Bulls yesterday signed center-forward John Salley to a 10-day contract and placed backup center Bill Wennington on the injured list with a swollen ankle.

The 6-11 Salley spent six years with the Detroit Pistons from 1986-92, then played for the Miami Heat for three years. Earlier this season, he played in 25 games for the expansion Toronto Raptors - averaging 6.0 points, 3.9 rebounds and 19.3 minutes a game.

He rejoins other ex-Pistons Dennis Rodman and James Edwards on the Bulls.

Last night's Maccabi Tel Aviv-Hapoel Eilat National Basketball League game was postponed due to the terrorist explosion.

No more player restrictions; UEFA accepts EU ruling

BRUSSELS (Reuter) - Soccer clubs can field as many European Economic Area (EEA) players as they like after UEFA finally and officially accepted the major recommendations of the Bosman ruling yesterday.

UEFA, European soccer's governing body, confirmed in two letters to the European Commission that it had scrapped its transfer fee system and "3+2" nationality restrictions for teams playing in its competitions.

That means big clubs such as AC Milan, Barcelona, Real Madrid and Manchester United can all play as many European Economic Area (EEA) players in their teams as they wish instead of being limited to just three plus two assimilated players.

The EEA comprises the 15 EU states plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

An assimilated player is one who has been with the club for five years and has come up from the youth team.

The Commission is still examining the question of how to apply the Bosman ruling to players from regions such as Eastern Europe that have special pacts with the Union.

UEFA's move, a response to Commission pressure following the European Court of Justice's Bosman ruling last December, removed the immediate threat that UEFA would be fined for failing to accept the decision.

Uncertainty remains, however, over the future of domestic transfer systems, since UEFA's concessions apply only to players moving between clubs in different countries.

In January the Commission gave UEFA six weeks to end its

age-old system for transfers of players whose contracts had expired and its "3+2" rule limiting teams to fielding a maximum of three foreign players and two "assimilated" foreigners.

The Bosman ruling, named for Belgian player Jean-Marc Bosman who challenged UEFA, said that the transfer system and foreign player limits violated EU treaty provisions guaranteeing workers the right to move freely across borders within the European Union.

UEFA said in London last month that a voluntary agreement by clubs to retain the 3+2 restriction for the rest of this season's European club competitions would remain in place.

Almost without exception, the clubs signed what they termed a gentlemen's ruling to abide by this year's rules.



CLOSE CALL - Australia's Ricky Ponting (l) is nearly run out on 97 by Courtney Browne of the West Indies. Ponting went on to make 102.

Richardson restores West Indies' pride

JAIPUR (Reuter) - West Indies captain Richie Richardson put his Kenyan nightmare firmly behind him yesterday with a match-winning 93 not out to restore some Caribbean credibility at Australia's expense in the World Cup.

Fielding all but one of the side involved in the shock 73-run defeat by Kenya last Thursday, West Indies reached a target of 230 with seven balls and four wickets to spare in a tense finale to a group A match they could ill afford to lose.

Richardson, who admitted the Kenyan result had humiliated his team and been the worst experience of his life, responded with his best one-day innings in years after Brian Lara had departed for 60 with the score on 113.

But it was not until Jimmy Adams hammered Damien Fleming for successive fours in the penultimate over that West Indies made the game safe and ensured a quarter-final against South Africa in Karachi, barring another miracle win by Kenya over Sri Lanka in Kandy tomorrow.

Australia's quarter-final opponents in Madras will be the losers of tomorrow's game between Pakistan and New Zealand.

Their total of 229 for six was spearheaded by Ricky Ponting, who made a superb 102 on a pitch which did not encourage fluent strokeplay, but Richardson's obvious determination ultimately swung the issue.

West Indies needed 30 off the last five overs and were undoubtedly helped by a reshuffled batting order which found Adams at number eight.

The sloppy, unprofessional cricket which put them in trouble against the Kenyans was barely evident at any stage, although the early overs of their reply promised little.

Makeshift opening pair Courtney Browne and Sherwin Campbell were both back in the pavilion inside seven overs, Campbell nicking a good one from Damien Fleming with only one run on the board and the recalled Browne being run out for a fortuitous 10.

That brought Richardson to the crease to join Lara and, with Shane Warne operating as early as the 13th over, a fascinating game entered its crucial phase.

Lara was typically flamboyant, but after racing to his first 50 of the tournament he skied Mark Waugh to deep square-leg where Glenn McGrath took a good running catch.

His 70-ball innings had at least given the West Indians some momentum, and Richardson capitalized. He made his runs off 132 balls including 10 fours and a six which represented the turning point of the game.

The Antiguan swung the ball high towards the mid-wicket boundary where Ponting took a brilliant catch, only to topple back over the advertising boards with the ball still in his hands. In that single moment, West Indies knew their luck had turned.

Ponting's innings offered a glimpse of what lies in store for Australia's opponents when the Waugh years come to an end. Slightly-built and nimble on his feet, he scores his runs rapidly and plays with the assurance of a senior pro.

His only escape came on 45 when a mix-up with Steve Waugh over a quick single would have proved fatal had Richardson's underarm throw from less than

four meters hit the stumps.

Not many batsmen in recent times have taken on the West Indian pace attack without a helmet, let alone a 21-year-old who made his test debut just months ago, yet the Tasmanian at times treated Ian Bishop as if he were a club bowler back in his native Launceston.

A startled Bishop was hit for a towering six over extra covers, Ponting having already driven the same bowler gloriously back down the pitch to register the sweetest of his five boundaries of the day.

His 100 arrived when he clipped Ambrose behind square for three, although he was promptly run out next ball as Australia did its best to match its five run-outs against India a week ago.

Ponting's third wicket stand of 110 in 18 overs with Steve Waugh, who survived a stumping chance on 25 en route to 57 in 65 balls, nevertheless guaranteed Australia a handy total which looked unlikely during a fired-up Ambrose's opening spell of five overs for one run.

Australia was still rooted on 26 for one after 14 overs, before Ponting and Mark Waugh began to make any headway. The latter was stamped off Roger Harper for 30, but he still has a tournament average of 120.

Table with cricket statistics for Australia and West Indies. Columns include player names and various statistics like runs, wickets, and averages.

Table with cricket statistics for West Indies. Columns include player names and various statistics like runs, wickets, and averages.

Man of the match: Richie Richardson. Result: West Indies won by four wickets.

Carey posts 2nd straight shutout; Gretzky knocked out

LANDOVER (Reuter) - Jim Carey stopped 27 shots Sunday for his second consecutive shutout and NHL-leading sixth whitewash of the season as the Washington Capitals downed the Philadelphia Flyers 3-0.

Steve Konowalchuk and Kevin Kaminski scored 1:42 apart in the second period.

Carey, who stopped 28 shots in a 2-0 shutout of Boston on Saturday, turned aside 16 shots in the pivotal second period.

"The team played well...to come out and give an effort like that, it's a credit to them. They had that one good period, the second, but we weathered the storm," said Carey, whose six shutouts is a franchise record.

The Capitals, who are 3-0-1 following a three-game losing streak, moved three points ahead of the sixth-place Montreal Canadiens in the Eastern Conference.

Blues 4, Oilers 3. Brett Hull and Igor Kravchuk scored 20 seconds apart midway

through the third period, helping St. Louis rally for a road victory.

The final score was overshadowed by an injury to superstar center Wayne Gretzky, who was playing just his second game with St. Louis since coming over from the Los Angeles Kings.

With 13:30 left in the second period, Gretzky was elbowed in the right cheek by former teammate Kelly Buchberger and fell to the ice. He was unconscious for more than a minute before being helped off the ice. Gretzky was diagnosed with a severe headache and was taken to a local hospital.

Gretzky returned on the team's flight back to St. Louis and was listed as day-to-day as far as his availability is concerned.

The all-time NHL scoring leader is in good spirits.

Sunday's results: Winnipeg 7, NY Islanders 5. Washington 3, Philadelphia 0. Vancouver 3, Buffalo 0. St. Louis 4, Edmonton 3. Calgary 5, San Jose 1. Tampa Bay 2, Anaheim 2 (OT).

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מכאן לחיפה

Amir: I was obeying Halacha

News agencies

YIGAL Amir, testifying from the witness stand for the first time yesterday, told Tel Aviv District Court that Halacha dictated he assassinate Yitzhak Rabin.

Amir said Rabin's peace policies endangered Israelis and had to be halted.

"It was clear from Halacha that *din rodef* applied to the prime minister," Amir said, referring to a command to kill anyone who intends to cause the death of Jews.

"I know Jewish law and *din rodef* means that if you've tried everything else and nothing works, then you have to kill him," Amir told the court.

Amir also said that at least one rabbi had told him that Rabin deserved to die. Police have questioned several rabbis about whether they issued such a ruling, but none has been charged.

He said he had decided to target Rabin after Israel signed the 1993 Oslo accord with the PLO.

Amir's lawyers put their client on the stand in what appeared to be a diminished capacity defense. They have said their client's obsession with removing Rabin from power diminished his ability to reason, when he shot and killed the prime minister at a peace rally.

They also said a psychiatric examination ordered by the court showed that Amir, who faces a life sentence if convicted of premeditated murder, has mental problems.

"I think it was clear from his testimony that when he decides to do something, he goes all the way and nothing prevents him from carrying it out. This type of person has a certain mental instability," said Shmuel Fleishman, one of Amir's three lawyers, after the hearing.

The court said on Sunday that state psychiatrists who examined Amir concluded he was fit to stand trial, but their report is being kept classified.

Amir said that assassinating Rabin was a challenge similar to quitting smoking or overcoming a dislike of computers.

"One of the lessons of Judaism is to allow the intellect to overcome the emotions," he said in a calm, assured tone. "If the Torah tells you to do something against your emotions, then it should be done. For example, stopping smoking may be difficult, but it can be done."

Testifying earlier, police interrogator Arye Silberman said that when he first questioned Amir, the defendant would argue that his case was similar to that of battered wives who eventually lash out against their husbands.

"He felt that his deed was not so terrible, and that he would be convicted of manslaughter," Silberman said.

But Amir indicated he had always been in control.

"I want to emphasize that I was waiting for the right moment," he said. "A decision such as this, to take down a leader, can change the future of a nation."

He said his greatest fear was failure. "If I failed I would end up in jail for 20 years and waste my life... The years will tell whether I was right or wrong."

As Amir confessed over and over again to killing Rabin, occasionally interrupting Fleishman, Judge Edmond Levy caustically remarked: "This is a wonderful cross-examination."

The trial is to resume on Thursday.

Jordanian father of 'Rabin' allegedly mistreated

AMMAN (AP) - Farmhand Rajai Abdul-Kadar says he is being mistreated because he named his new-born son after Yitzhak Rabin.

He told the *al-Mashreq* weekly that his boss sacked him from his job because he refused to change the child's name.

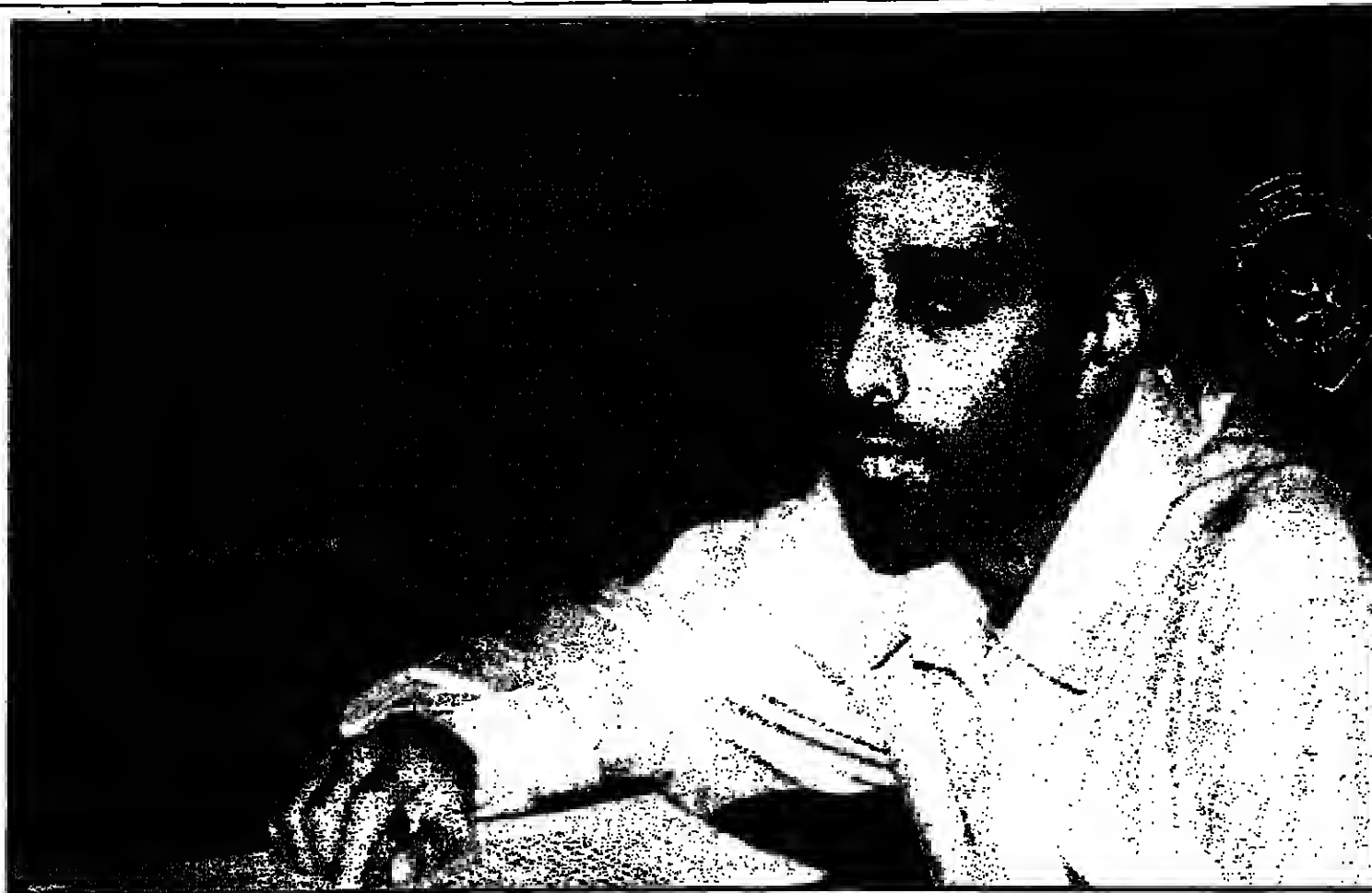
Abdul-Kadar, 40, said an official at the birth registration office refused to list Yitzhak Rabin in government records, claiming that the name was "against the law."

Abdul-Kadar, who lives in the southwestern city of Madaba, said

his neighbors and relatives were also harassing him because of the name, which he chose out of admiration for Rabin.

He said he and his wife have become increasingly concerned for the life of their child, born early last month, after receiving letters warning them to "change the name of my son or flee my house."

But, he said, "I'm happy with the name. I'm determined not to change it and I'm ready to bear the consequences of my decision."



Yigal Amir in the Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

MDA: Ethiopians fooled for 'medical reasons'

JUDY SIEGAL

MAGEN David Adom's decision not to inform Ethiopian immigrant blood donors that their contributions were to be destroyed was taken "for pure medical reasons and had nothing to do with ethnic considerations," said Dr. Eilat Shinar, the professional director of MDA's blood bank.

Shinar was one of the witnesses to appear at the Navon Committee hearings, which held its second public session at the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem on Sunday. Shinar's boss, Dr. Amnon Ben-David, was the MDA official who approved the decision taken by his predecessor several years ago not to "embarrass" Ethiopians by sending them away without donating. Shinar noted that the prevalence of HIV and other diseases in this group is much higher than in the general public.

The demonstration by thousands of

Ethiopian immigrants in Jerusalem several weeks ago, which was sometimes violent and demanded Ben-David's dismissal, harmed not only the immigrant community but also MDA's reputation, Shinar added, because "donors started accused MDA of being racist and we had trouble collecting blood."

Yisrael Yitzhak, a practical nurse at the Rahin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus and a former Ethiopian immigrant, warned that there was an inadequate number of public health workers to explain HIV transmission to the community and to the public at large.

Prof. Eran Dolev of the Israel Medical Association said the only legitimate reason for "lying" to a patient was to save a life. He

reminded MDA that there are also other groups in the country who are at high risk for infectious viral disorders other than AIDS. He called for including these communities in MDA's decision-making process so they would not have to be lied to. IDF Chief Medical Officer Dr. Yehoshua Shemer and Health Ministry chief epidemiologist Dr. Paul Slater spoke to the committee behind closed doors.

The committee, which will next meet on Monday morning, is chaired by the fifth president of Israel, Yitzhak Navon, and includes two former Ethiopian immigrants - social worker Natmar Hillel and Ethiopian Immigrant Association chairman Adiso Massala. Other members are Prof. Eliezer Rachmilevich, Yehezkel Zakai, Dr. Eliahu Winograd and Haim Nagan.

WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Cloud
Amsterdam	28	28	cloudy
Berlin	28	28	cloudy
Bombay	28	28	cloudy
Chicago	28	28	cloudy
London	28	28	cloudy
Los Angeles	28	28	cloudy
Madrid	28	28	cloudy
Moscow	28	28	cloudy
New York	28	28	cloudy
Paris	28	28	cloudy
San Francisco	28	28	cloudy
Tel Aviv	28	28	cloudy
Tokyo	28	28	cloudy

Winning cards
In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the queen of spades, queen of hearts, seven of diamonds, and ace of clubs.

Court: Ombudsman should deal with collaborators' complaints

EVELYN GORDON

THE government will consider appointing an ombudsman to deal with complaints from collaborators who feel they have been unfairly treated, at the High Court of Justice's suggestion.

The decision was in response to a petition by 15 former collaborators, who asked that the state let all collaborators know exactly what financial and other benefits to which they are entitled. The petitioners explained that not knowing the rules creates an unpleasant feeling among most of the collaborators that others are getting more than they are.

The state claimed that revealing this information would endanger state security, and Justices Gavriel Bach, Mishael Cheshin and Yitzhak Zamir accepted this argument.

However, they suggested that the government consider appointing an external, independent ombudsman who would have access to all the relevant information, and to whom collaborators could apply if they thought they were being discriminated against.

The state therefore promised to consider this idea and make a decision "in the near future."

No TV for politicians 21 days before elections

EVELYN GORDON

THE electronic media will be unable to show politicians' faces for 21 days before the elections, instead of 30 days, according to a compromise approved by the Knesset Law Committee yesterday.

The compromise bill also states that the ban will be eliminated totally for elections to the 15th Knesset.

The ban has been a bone of contention between coalition and opposition, with the coalition insisting that the ban is an anachronism now that Israel TV is no longer a monopoly, and the opposition insisting that the media is biased against it, and that eliminating the ban is a self-serving trick to help the coalition win the next elections.

"At election time, all the news is propaganda," said Avner Shaki (NRP).

Tzahi Hanegbi (Likud) therefore proposed the 21-day compromise, noting that this will establish the trend of eliminating the ban without imposing too great a hardship on the opposition in the upcoming elections.

Haggai Merom (Labor), who

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nine convicted for election fraud
Nine individuals and bodies affiliated with the Likud were convicted yesterday of false registration of business documents, preparation of and maintaining false financial records, and fraud prior to the 1983 Knesset elections and the local authority elections in 1989.

The nine - Mordechai Yahel, Menahem Atzmon, Yona Peled, Gad Kurran, Moshe Klich, BMY Shohar Communications, Hilar Advertising, "Victory for the Likud in the 1988 Elections," and "The Likud Fund in Elections for the Local Authority in 1989" - were convicted in Tel Aviv District Court for trying to get around rules forbidding receiving campaign contributions from organizations here and abroad, totaling some NIS 900,000. *Itm*

Former Netanyahu major charged with bribery
Yoel Alroi, 66, a former mayor of Netanya, was released on NIS 150,000 bail yesterday by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court. He is suspected of bribing various non-profit organizations to have their members vote for him in 1993.

According to the charges, Alroi paid NIS 1,638,186 to Kiryat Sanz and hundreds of thousands of shekels to other groups. Alroi, a lawyer, denied the charges. *Itm*

Flights to Jordan to start April 1
Regular flights between Israel and Jordan will begin on April 1, Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar announced yesterday. The aviation agreement between the two countries allows El Al and Royal Jordanian up to five flights weekly. In the first stage, the ministry said, each airline will be allowed to carry up to 450 passengers. Tickets will cost \$70 in each direction, and round-trip tickets for those staying at least three days will cost \$120. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

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